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THE NONCONFORMIST.

"The dissidence of dissent and the protestantism of the protestant religion."

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Ecclesiastical Affairs.

LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS.

GENTLE reader! vouchsafe a few moments' attention on a matter of business. We take you—and surely we are not deceived—to be interested in the success of the British Anti-state-church Association. There may be a strong tinge of vanity in the conceit, but if so, we must plead guilty to imagining that all our readers are such. At all events, we shall suppose thus much for the nonce. Come, then! let us put our heads together, and converse freely on the means to be adopted for giving useful and permanent expression to our common wishes. The theme may have but few attractions for the speculative. It is not exactly the spot one would select from which to take a spring for an upward flight. But it is one of those practical topics about which earnest men will exchange thoughts with the air of soldiers talking of their weapons. It is, besides, one which ought to be decided upon before we fairly set out on our great enterprise—for nothing would be more disastrous than, when in the very thick of conflict, to discover that we have selected arms which we cannot wield.

Local associations! ought they to be formed? and if formed, would they most efficiently promote the object we have more immediately in view—the diffusion of information on the subject of church and state alliance?

It must be conceded, that all-but-universal practice raises a strong presumption in their favour. They constitute a kind of machinery with which we are familiar—a path which we have been long accustomed to tread. We might take it for granted, therefore, that they have their advantages. It becomes us, however, at the commencement of an undertaking which must be arduous, and which may be protracted, to take nothing on trust. We are like men embarking for a distant port, and having before us the certain prospect of boisterous weather. We must look well to every spar and rope, to every beam and joint, that we may be thoroughly assured of the sea-worthiness of our bark. We must try over again old conclusions—must overhaul customary methods of procedure—must ascertain how far this or that plan will bear a strain upon it—and must rigidly inquire whether, besides yielding us a tolerable amount of aid, certain modes of doing things do not also increase our danger, and impede the freedom of our action. Admit that local associations have been a very usual method of agitating important truths, it will yet be wise for us to reconsider the whole question as to their aptitude to secure the advancement of our cause. Notions which are prevalent are not always just—and further thought may sometimes improve upon practices which can boast both age and general acceptance.

We may as well, at once, inform our readers that we are very far from being satisfied of the expediency of local associations, framed after the model, and having in view the object, of the British Anti-state-church Association. We will set down as concisely as we are able the reasons which have told upon our own judgment, and leave them to operate with such force as they possess upon the judgments of others.

And, first, we deem it advisable, in these times, and especially in this matter, to keep a sharp look out in the direction of law. It may be of trifling

consequence to little cock-boats what course they steer, inasmuch as their smallness is a sufficient security against being grounded. But ours is a vessel which draws much water, and will do so, to a remarkable extent, when she comes to be fully freighted. We, therefore, are in danger of striking, where tiny craft might float at ease. It would be a foolish heedlessness in us to neglect our soundings, or to dash on, not caring whither; for should we run upon a legal shoal, we should, in all human probability, go to pieces. The laws relating to corresponding societies render our channel intricate, even in fine weather—but in these times, when home secretaries scruple not to grope amidst the mysteries of the Post office, and cabinets secure the conviction of successful agitators of constructive conspiracy, it behoves us to redouble our caution. Local associations can only exist as isolated associations. Legally, they are precluded from being auxiliaries. With the central society they could hold no communion, save by a perilous evasion of the law. They could not formally consult it—they could not correspond with it; open co-operation would be dangerous—covert assistance would be difficult. Now it is hardly prudent to run right amongst rocks and quicksands, even under the guidance of the most experienced helmsman, if a clearer course be open to us—if, in fact, we can as expeditiously reach our object by standing out into the deep sea. The best way, in some cases, to meet a danger, is (if the Irishman may be excused) to run away from it—and although it is often the coward's plea, yet there are occasions on which it becomes the most enthusiastic to bear in mind that "the better part of valour is discretion."

Nor are we, upon mature reflection, thoroughly convinced that, even if the law presented no obstacles, the end we have in view could best be gained by means of local associations. The machinery is, under any circumstances, cumbrous and costly, and wastes no small a proportion of its motive power before it can be brought to bear directly upon the object. Every distinct association has, of necessity, its own furniture to provide—its equipments for action—a place for stated meeting, books, and, in many cases, paid servants—all of which, however economically managed, absorb funds without producing the smallest return. There is, moreover, a formality of movement inseparable from it, which considerably abates its usefulness. It may be questioned, indeed, whether the advantages it secures are not more showy than solid. It can neither act with the promptitude, nor the vigour, nor the courage, which may be attained by simpler means. It is liable to be warped by local influences—to be deranged and crippled by local differences of opinion. Its committee is almost sure to be clogged with one or more members who add only to the dead weight of its materials, upon whose exertions it would be folly to count, but whose influence would invariably stand in the way, should emergencies arise requiring unusual decision. In forming the *personnel* of each association, it would be found necessary to work in no little stuff which could be better done without, in order to avoid giving offence. This is an evil the magnitude of which cannot be measured—an evil which, if it can be, ought to be, avoided. The texture of our fabric must be sound throughout. No man ought to be identified with it who is not qualified by earnestness of soul in the great cause.

It may be further remarked, that the more proximate object of the British Anti-state-church Association makes a concentration of strength absolutely essential. We wish, in the first instance, to unite dissenters in one unbroken phalanx upon the ground of principle. We can only hope to do so by furnishing them with requisite and well-assorted information, and by accustoming them to a simple mode of combination. We must have a tract depot stored with carefully-considered publications in due variety, adapted to every accessible class, and every shade of taste. We must have lecturers afield, whose integrity, ability, and zeal, may be guaranteed by a responsible body. This cannot be done without serious expense. But with local associations how is this wider and more general object to be effected? Their members would not, in many cases, be also members of the central society. Their subscriptions could only find their way to the common reservoir by underground drains, which, after all, the lynx eye of an attorney-general might discover. Several of the modes of

action contemplated by the Conference are plainly beyond the reach of single local associations; nor, in order to compass them, are they permitted to combine. We should thus have a multitude of parts, without the possibility of constructing out of them an efficient whole. Here, there would be a hand without a head—there, a head without a hand. Division would take the place of unity, and with all the materials of strength we should exhibit nothing but weakness.

Much might be urged in favour of the system we are condemning, if no more efficient one could be devised. We are convinced, however, that we have an alternative, which will bear examination. Suppose one association, and one only, to exist. How can it be made to tell upon every part of the country? Local attention, and local effort, it must have, but this does not necessarily imply a local society. Take a single example. Here is a district in which it is thought desirable to make an immediate movement towards the object in view. A few individuals, whose hearts are in their work, are willing to commence. They may consult together without constituting themselves a committee. They may obtain such information as they need from the Executive Committee appointed by Conference. They may be authorised by that body to solicit membership and subscriptions to the British Anti-state-church Association. They may map out their district for a due division of labour. They may be guaranteed a fixed proportion of the funds they collect to defray local expenses. They may be entitled to take out another proportion in the society's publications. They may secure the services, as arrangements can be made, of a recognised lecturer of the association. They may thus obtain all the practical advantages of a local association, without risk, and without formality. They need keep no permanent records of their proceedings. Every agent employed either in collecting funds, or in distributing information, or in getting up lectures or public meetings, would be an agent of the British Anti-state-church Association. Every member would be enrolled a member of that body. Every meeting would be called in its name, and conducted in harmony with its plans. To our minds this method offers itself as at once feasible and effective—combining all the unity resulting from exclusively central action with all the adjustment of force to local circumstances, and by local knowledge, which is necessary to work out useful practical ends.

The subject is, we believe, under the consideration of the Executive Committee, and, we have no doubt, will be cautiously examined in all its bearings, before any public step is taken. Meanwhile, it would be prudent for the friends of the cause to refrain from adopting measures which, hereafter, it might be expedient, but very difficult, to modify.

METROPOLITAN ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.—The monthly meeting of members was held on Wednesday evening last, at the King's Head tavern, Poultry. Mr Templeton in the chair. The principal business was the discussion of the present position of the Association, and the course of policy which would be best adapted to serve the interests of the general cause, and promote co-operation with the British Anti-state-church Association. The matter was eventually referred to the committee for consideration and inquiry, the result to be reported at the next meeting of the Association. It is therefore probable, that on that occasion some decisive steps will be taken for altering or amending the constitution of the Association.

CHURCH RATES, WEST HACKNEY.—The churchwardens having signified their intention of shortly calling for a new rate, the inhabitants met in considerable numbers on Monday evening, at the Tyssen Arms, Dalston, and determined on giving the most strenuous opposition to the demand. Arrangements were made for a complete canvass of the parish, committee rooms fixed, two or three series of addresses prepared, and various resolutions passed. At the vestry meeting on Thursday a church rate was refused by a very large majority. A poll was demanded, which commenced the same evening, and was concluded on the following day, at 5 o'clock, p.m. At that time Mr Pully, the vestry clerk, stated the numbers to be—for the rate, 276; against it, 372; giving a majority of 97 votes against the rate. The number of persons was—211 for, and 327 against the rate. The result was received with protracted cheering.

MODE OF EXPENDING A CHURCH RATE.—A vestry meeting of the parish of St Anne, Limehouse, was held in the Town hall, on Thursday, the 11th inst, to audit the ex-churchwardens' accounts; Mr Churchwarden Stuart in the chair. The examination of the accounts had not proceeded far before Mr Wicker, an old warden, objected to a sum of £30, which appeared in the sexton's book as having been received of and paid back again to Mr W. W. Johnson, one of the late churchwardens, for a family vault. Mr Wicker stated this vault to be capable of holding forty coffins, and said that by proper management it would realise the parish more than £200. He said it was shameful and disgraceful of Mr Johnson to sell himself this vault for such a paltry sum without consulting his colleague or the vestry. After further very severely commenting on the conduct of Mr Johnson, he concluded by moving "That the sum of £30 be disallowed in the account, and that the said vault be retained as a public vault, for the benefit of the church." Mr Johnson having addressed the vestry, the resolution was put and carried, not a single hand being held up against it. A committee, consisting of the churchwardens and five other parishioners, was appointed to take the necessary steps for the recovery of the vault from Mr Johnson. Messrs Wicker, Lilley, Brasby, Ford, and another, all churchmen, were appointed the committee. The examination of the accounts then proceeded; among them was a bill for two extra fine linen surplices, £6 15s.; and a great coat suit and hat for beadle, £19 12s. Several churchmen expressed their disapprobation of these items. After voting thanks to the chairman, the vestry broke up, but without resolving the usual vote of thanks to the retiring wardens.

THE PERSECUTION IN CARMYLIE.—The Free church congregation here have met on the road-side every Sabbath since they were shut out of their wooden church by Lord Panmure's interdict. On Sabbath week—being the day on which the communion had been used to be dispensed for many years—they were accommodated in a grass park, and had the sacramental services administered with great solemnity and order. The weather was peculiarly favourable. The number of communicants was considerably larger than this time twelve months. The persecutions to which his lordship has been pleased to subject them has not only not diminished their numbers, but increased their steadfastness.—*Dundee Warrier.*

"THE BONDAGE OF DISSENT."—The Rev. Joseph Davenport Elliot, lately ordained to the pastorate of the independent congregation assembling in Mawdsley-street chapel, in this town, has emancipated himself, by some sudden process, from the "bondage of dissent" and intends to be enchained with the fetters of the state church, as by law established in these realms.—*Bolton Free Press.*

THE MARRIAGE BILL.—We have seen a copy of this bill as amended by the Peers. The amendments on the first clause render the established clergy liable to the provisions required from presbyterians. From the second clause the words "and not to a Roman Catholic" are struck out, by which a presbyterian minister is enabled to solemnise marriages where one of the parties is a Roman Catholic, or, in other words, in every case that can occur connected with his own congregation. That part of the sixth clause enacting a charge for the stamps on licenses is struck out. The fees payable for the examination of records are also abolished. So far as we have been able to examine the amended bill, it would seem to us that, with the exception of cases of special license, it places presbyterians on a footing of equality with the established church. These amendments have been conceded through the exertions of Dr Cooke, who arrived in town last night; and they anticipate several of the objects of the Assembly's deputation, who would reach London yesterday night.—*Banner of Ulster.*

PREPARING FOR CONFIRMATION.—The following notice was given out last Sunday, by the parish clerk in a certain church not one hundred miles from Worlington:—"Notice is hereby given, that all the children that wants to be bishoped be to give in their names to the offsheatin Pason, the Rev. R. M."—*Western Times.*

Correspondence.

PLAN FOR UNITING THE PEOPLE.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR—The levity with which Mr Villiers's motion for a repeal of the corn laws was treated by the government, added to the majority against it, surely ought to be proof enough of the little real consideration the aristocracy feel for the people.

We know not how patient the "Council of the League" mean to be. One thing must be evident to the country, that the government is fully prepared to dare and defy its influence for some time to come, unless greater strength can be given to its present popularity, by making the "ruling few uneasy." To us this seems wholly impossible, without amalgamating the middle and working classes. It is too true that neither of the three liberal divisions—the League, the complete suffragists, or the chartists—seem disposed to make any advance towards merging their separate views for general action.

The question, therefore, occurs—what proposition can be advanced, involving no sacrifice to either party, and yet have the concurrence of all, and prove most effectual for the purpose required? That the painful position of the country arises solely from misgovernment, no sane mind can doubt. While the power of governing having hitherto rested with the aristocracy and the gentry, is a fact fully sufficient to show where, and on whom, to throw the blame.

The League aspires to be the most powerful party of the three, and its just and moderate demands may be fixing many allies: but to many also the time has come when a greater and more energetic display of its powers is imperatively called for.

Why not issue a resolution, by which the character of the House can be successfully and wholly changed?

Let the Council of the League recommend "That no member of the aristocracy, or its connexion, be voted for to serve as a member of parliament, unless agreed upon by a committee of each of the three liberal divisions of the people." The spirit that was roused, and forced the Reform bill, still lives, and, under any concentration, could be made as effective in gaining a larger and fairer share of the people's rights than have been conceded yet.

With care, and under proper direction, the whole of the English members could be nominated from London alone; but, looking to other important commercial places, we could be at no loss to find candidates of and from the people, whose interests would be so identified, that any neglect of public business would be as fatal to themselves as to the people.

It will be objected to by many that such a resolution will separate the members of the aristocracy who have already joined the League. We have no desire to do that; they stand sufficiently well with the country to become included in its effect; while we confess to such confidence in many of them, as to believe they love the people, and would gladly become the Marcus Curtius of the present day.

ONE OF THE PEOPLE.

THE FREE CHURCH.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR—In your paper of the 3rd July, there is a report of an anti-state-church meeting, held at Birmingham on Monday evening, 24th ult. After some remarks respecting the inconsistency of the Free church in claiming to be voluntaries in practice and churchmen in principle; and after referring to a resolution of the London Conference, which expressed a hope that the Scottish voluntaries would continue to deal faithfully by the Free kirk; one speaker is reported to have said, that there was a clause in the confession of faith of the established church of Scotland, which laid it down—"that it is the duty of the civil magistrate to take order, and to see that unity and peace be preserved in the church; all heresies and blasphemies suppressed; the truth of God kept pure and entire; for the better ordering of which he hath power to call synods, be present at them, and to provide that whatsoever is transacted at them, shall be according to the word of God." When the speaker had uttered this statement from the confession of faith, there were cries of "Hear, hear," and "Shame," as very well there might. Then the speaker goes on to say, that when the Free church deputation were in England collecting money, that was the doctrine they held; then he asks, how stands the case now? He says that "he was at Edinburgh when the Free church assembly met there in May last, and had the pleasure of knowing, before he left, that that clause had been struck out by a committee appointed to revise the standards of the church." When the speaker made this last statement, there was great cheering, according to the report.

This last statement, I fear, is very much calculated to mislead the public; and I think the speaker would do great service to the cause of truth, if he would refer more explicitly to the sources of his information. I have called the attention of some of the ministers of the Free church to the statement, and they say they never heard of the thing before. They never heard of any committee of the Assembly of the Free church being appointed to revise the standards: such a thing they have not heard mentioned; they never heard of the clause in question being struck out, but, upon the other hand, that it is still adhered to as firmly as ever. I have called the attention of others to the statement, and they tell me the same thing. I read with ordinary care the reports of the proceedings of the Free assembly, in May last, as they appeared in the *Witness* newspaper, and I do not remember reading of the appointment of any such committee, or the striking out of any such clause out of their standards; and I think I may safely affirm that the Free church holds by that clause as firmly as it did when it formed part of the establishment, although I think the sooner it expunges it the better. I have written this, simply to correct what is evidently a mistake in the report of the speech I refer to, or a serious mistake made by the speaker; and the sooner it is corrected the better, in order that the public may not be deceived.

I am, my dear Sir, yours truly,
J. L. K.

Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PETITIONS FOR THE WEEK.

Church of England, for increasing the influence of, 1.
Corn laws, against alteration of, 8.
County Courts bill, for, 2.
Dissenters' Chapels bill, against, 1.
Jewish Disabilities, for removal of, 1.
Lord's Day, for better observance of, 3.
Marriages (Ireland), to legalise, 2.
Poor Law Amendment, against, 17.
Post Office espionage, against, 2.
Railways bill, against, 7.
Suffrage, for extension of, 1.
St Asaph and Bangor dioceses, against union of, 20.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME.

Privy Council bill.
Lecturer and Parish Clerks bill.
Marriages bill.
Party Processions (Ireland) bill.
Marriages (Ireland) bill.
Soap Allowances bill.
District Courts and Prisons bill.
Western Australia bill.
Farm Buildings bill.
Parish Constables bill.
Loan Societies bill.

BILLS READ A SECOND TIME.

Field Gardens bill.
Butter and Cheese bill.
Municipal Corporations bill.
Railways bill.
Joint Stock Banks Regulation bill.
Turnpike Trusts (South Wales) bill.
Merchant Seamen bill.
Converted Elections bill.
Marriages bill.

Soap Allowances bill.
Party Processions (Ireland) bill.
Duchy of Cornwall bill.
Western Australia bill.
Farm Buildings bill.
Parish Constables bill.
Loan Societies bill.

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE.

Colonial Postage bill.
Three-and-a-half per Cents Exemption bill.
Assessed Taxes Compositions bill.
Joint Stock Companies bill.
Detached Parts of Counties bill.
Actions for Gaming Discontinuance bill.
Law Courts (Ireland) bill.
Sudbury Disfranchisement bill.
Butter and Cheese bill.
Municipal Corporations bill.
Soap Allowances bill.

BILLS READ A THIRD TIME.

Militia Ballots Suspension bill.
Stock in Trade bill.
Turnpike Acts Continuance bill.
Three-and-a-half per Cents Exemption bill.
Vagrants Removal bill.
Aliens bill.
Colonial Postage bill.
Assessed Taxes Compositions bill.
Sudbury Disfranchisement bill.
Detached Parts of Counties bill.
Butter and Cheese bill.
Actions for Gaming Discontinuance bill.
Law Courts (Ireland) bill.

DEBATES.

Wednesday, July 10th.

FIELD GARDENS BILL.

Mr COWPER moved the second reading of the Field Gardens bill, which is based on the recommendations of the committee on allotments, and proposes to create a machinery for appropriating to the labouring population portions of land, to be cultivated for their own use.

Mr SHARMAN CRAWFORD and Mr FERRAND supported the bill. The former gentleman enlarged upon the many advantages which the possession of a small portion of land might be expected to confer upon the poor man, and the better cultivation of the soil from the general introduction of spade husbandry, by which he anticipated that a large proportion of the land at present waste might be rendered productive, and sufficient food and employment provided for the whole population.

Mr B. ESCOTT was in favour of the allotment system under proper management, but objected to that being rendered compulsory which had been hitherto a voluntary act on the part of the landowners. This would amount to a legislative interference between landlord and tenant, which he could not approve.

Mr HUME also, on the same grounds, opposed the bill.

Sir JAMES GRAHAM would not oppose the second reading, because he approved of the principle of the bill. But he considered that its compulsory enactments would interfere with its usefulness; and the machinery of the bill would require considerable alteration. Critical attention would therefore be required in committee to the details of the measure.

Mr CHILDERS and Lord WORLESTON, who had both been members of the allotment committee, also gave a qualified support to the bill, which was accordingly read a second time.

PROTECTION OF GAMING ON THE TURF.

The House was occupied the greater part of the evening with the bill for suspending the actions brought against parties for betting at horse races. The debate was chiefly remarkable for the attempts made by members connected with the turf to clear themselves from the imputations directed against them by Baron Alderson during the late trial on the "Running Rein" case.

The proceedings commenced with a discussion on the motion of Mr CHRISTIE, that Mr Russell, the plaintiff in the suspended actions, be heard by counsel against the bill. This was objected to by the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, on the ground that Russell was not the real plaintiff. On a division, the motion was rejected, by 30 to 14.

Mr CHRISTIE then moved that the bill be committed that day three months, assigning as a reason for obstructing the measure, that he had been unfairly treated by the government. He alluded very pointedly to the evidence given by Lord George Bentinck during a late trial, as exhibiting the characters of the persons he was in the habit of associating with.

Mr M. GIBSON spoke strongly against the bill; which he characterised as a gross case of class legislation. He also charged the government with having acted in a vacillating manner on the subject, if not unfairly.

Lord STANLEY and Sir JAMES GRAHAM defended government. The latter explained, that though government thought the subject was one requiring a general measure for its amendment, the period of the session was too late to propose it this year. He supported this continuance of the suspension bill till the matter could be dealt with in a comprehensive form.

Captain BERKELEY had originally opposed the bill as a means of relieving persons from penalties they had incurred by transactions which had brought the turf into disgrace; but having heard, as a member of the gaming committee, the reasons which had induced the parties to bring the actions, he was reluctant that such characters should reap such immense profits. For himself, he would prefer that a son of his should go to the common hazard table, rather than enter into the chicanery of "book making," and the dirty work that was now inevitable in those who meddled in horse racing.

Colonel PEEL endeavoured to relieve himself from the imputation cast upon members of the turf generally by Mr Baron Alderson during the recent trial of the "Running Rein" case, that they "associated with



blackguards." He complained especially of Mr M. Gibson's conduct in holding frequent communication with Russell, with the view of eliciting evidence in support of the *qui tam* actions.

Mr Gibson explained. His only object had been to elicit the truth.

Lord GEORGE BENTINCK attacked Mr Gibson with great warmth, and repudiated the charge that the bill was a piece of class legislation. He retorted on Mr Gibson the charge of associating with blackguards; and characterised the parties he had mixed himself up with in opposing this bill as self-convicted felons, and persons who had "robbed their own uncle's hell."

After more angry conversation—during which Mr B. ESCOTT and Mr HAYTER took occasion to vindicate the conduct of Mr Gibson on the committee—the House divided; when Mr Christie's amendment was rejected, by 45 to 9. The bill was then committed.

Thursday, July 11th.

RAILWAYS BILL.

Mr BRIGHT, on the resumption of the adjourned debate on the Railways Regulation bill, resisted the measure on several grounds. He contended that the existing management of the railroads was a wholesome one, and more beneficial to the poor than any ministerial management was likely to prove. He objected, on constitutional principles, to the great accession of patronage which the bill tended to bestow on the government:—

There were no establishments in this country carried on with such admirable management and arrangement as the railroads. There was nothing in the government establishments which could compare with them in the nicety and admirable propriety of their management. Government ships were not so well arranged. No person who went in government packets could say that the conduct and accommodation which he met with on board those packets was not inferior to what was to be met with in packets under the management of public companies. Again, the management of the Post office was not such as would justify them in placing in the hands of the government the conveyance of passengers [hear, hear]. What a long time had passed before a reduction in the rate of postage was obtained. And how long since had honourable gentlemen opposite ceased to rail against the penny postage? At that very moment the mails from London to Manchester were sent by a roundabout circuitous way, instead of going by a way which would convey them an hour earlier; and, though representations had been made by the corporation and chamber of commerce of Manchester over and over again upon the subject, no remedy had been provided. He was convinced that if, under this bill, the management of railways should devolve upon the government, it would not be long before the public would deeply repent having entrusted them with such a power. But there were other questions besides those of economy connected with this subject. There was the constitutional question whether it was fitting that any government should be entrusted with the enormous amount of patronage which this bill, by giving them the control of railways, would place in their hands. The London and Birmingham railway alone employed from 1,500 to 2,000 persons, with salaries varying from £70 to £1,000, and they spent more than £200,000 for wages, stores, tools, and a variety of other expenditure. The Great Western railway must pay more than this even, and the whole of the railways together paid an amount that was enormous; and if the management of these establishments, the expenditure of these large sums of money, and the patronage of so many appointments, were to be placed in the hands of the executive government, would it not give them a great and dangerous influence over the various electoral bodies, and affect the freedom of the constituencies of the country [hear, hear]? Would not the power of conferring 1,500 or 2,000 appointments between London and Birmingham, with salaries varying from £70 to £1,000 a year, naturally give government a very powerful influence over the constituencies of those places, and of every borough near which the railway passed. See what was the case already with regard to the post-office patronage. He (Mr Bright) was at Kendal on the day of the last election, and was then informed that the guard of the mail coach, on passing through that town, was taken from the coach, and compelled to vote for the government candidate, to whose political opinions it was known he was opposed. Where, then, would be the independence of the constituencies, if the executive government had the railways under their control, and employed the patronage which would thus devolve upon them as they too frequently did in other cases? The same effects which now resulted from their influence in such places as Rochester, Pembroke, Devonport, and elsewhere, would exist in every borough through which a railway passed.

He praised the excellent management of railways, as at present conducted, the civility of servants employed on them, &c., and pressed for the postponement of the bill.

Messrs BERNAL, COLQUHOUN, C. BULLER, GIBBORNE, WARD, HAWES, and MUNTZ, all opposed the measure, particularly Mr Buller, who ridiculed the idea of making the government the controller of speculations dependent for their vitality on individual enterprise, and urged that, at least, delay was due to those who had embarked their capital in speculations so materially promotive of the public welfare.

He objected to the bill, not only because it was an interference with private property, but on account of its being opposed to the principle on which all the public works in this country had been conducted, and under which system they had been so prosperous. He contrasted the efficiency of such undertakings in this country with similar ones on the continent, which were under government control. The public roads, the posting system, the lighting of towns, the canals, the buoying and lighting of the coast—all these matters were managed by private enterprise in England, and were far better arranged than in France or other countries, where the government undertook them. All her Majesty's recent governments had had a great itch to meddle with such matters: therefore he was not surprised that the ex-President of the Board of Trade united with the pre-

sent President of the same Board in support of this meddling with the affairs of her Majesty's subjects. They seemed to think that nothing could be conducted well except through the medium of an assistant commissioner from Somerset house or from Downing street. Where was this interference to end? Before long, he supposed, it would be thought impossible for the people to conduct any of their affairs at all; and we should at last have an assistant commissioner appointed to cut our meat for us [cheers and laughter]. With respect to the measure itself, he thought it calculated to alarm all railway proprietors of existing lines; for the 38th clause gave the government power to secure the control of existing railways, since it empowered the Board of Trade to make agreements with the majority of the proprietors, which were to be binding on the rest, for placing the railways under government control. He was glad to find that the cheap conveyance of the poor was to be considered; but he objected to the manner in which it was to be effected, by cheapening the fares at the cost of the proprietors of railways. He should like to ask the Home Secretary, who was Jack Cade now?

Mr COLQUHOUN remarked on the different circumstances under which the continental railways and those of this country had been constructed. Those in Belgium cost £17,000 per mile, whilst the English railways cost £32,000 on the average. The cost in the United States of America was only £4,000 a mile; yet our fares on goods and passengers were lower than those in America.

Mr WALLACE insisted on the necessity of government interference for the protection of the poorer classes from exorbitant charges and inconvenient arrangements. He read a statement of the charges on different railways to third class passengers, for the purpose of showing that the charge of one farthing per mile, made on the Glasgow and Greenock railway, would be remunerative. Many of the other railways also derived profit from carrying passengers at less than one penny a mile.

Mr GIBBORNE analysed the bill, the provisions of which, he contended, would be wholly inoperative. As to the revision of fares, it was evident the railway companies would readily contrive to keep their profits below the point of interference, not by lowering the fares, but by doing as was now done by the Birmingham and London railway, by excluding the least agreeable and convenient part of their traffic.

That railway now excluded coals and minerals from their traffic, otherwise their profits would be higher. He asked how would the government deal with such a company?

Lord STANLEY—"Purchase it" [hear, hear]!

Mr GIBBORNE did not think there was any man who should be suffered to walk alone that believed in the practicability of buying up these railways—forty miles at Exeter and sixty miles at York—and managing them by a government board in London. It was altogether a most impracticable measure. The railway directors knew very well it was all gammon.

Lord STANLEY—"Why, then, do they oppose the bill?"

Mr GIBBORNE—"The opposition arose from the objection to interference."

Sir ROBERT PEEL twitted Mr Gisborne with his manner of opposing the bill—first wishing to stop it without discussion; then objecting to the eloquence of Mr Gladstone, whilst he himself took the opportunity of making a speech full of the figures of rhetoric. Sir Robert, adverting to the principles of the bill and the necessity for giving the government the power to interfere in the regulation of railways, complimented the present companies for their general excellent arrangements. Nevertheless, he thought such important works, in the management of which the public interests were so deeply involved, ought not to be left entirely without control. The power of purchase he regarded as a measure to be only resorted to in extreme cases, when all other measures to effect an arrangement failed. He could not deprecate too strongly the exercise on the part of government of the power of purchase. All that was sought to be obtained by the introduction of such a power into the bill was, that it should operate as a check upon the abuse of the monopolies granted to the railway companies.

Mr HAWES and Mr MUNTZ shortly stated their objections to the bill, amidst calls for a division. The House then divided—for the second reading, 186; against it, 98; ministerial majority, 88.

PROTECTION OF GAMING ON THE TURF.

When the report on this measure was brought up, several explanations took place between Mr Christie, Mr Goulburn, and Mr Milner Gibson, respecting words used in the debate of the preceding night.

Lord HOWICK moved an amendment so as to limit the present bill to a mere continuance-bill, without giving any extension to the protection already afforded. He wished to put down heavy betting at horse-races, not to protect the bets made at them; and in the same way as the right honourable gentleman put down the thimble-rig gambling of the poor, also to put down the gambling at horse-races.

Lord PALMERSTON ridiculed this proposition; and said it was the opinion of the committee that legislation could not be advantageously brought to bear against betting on the turf. It had been objected to the bill that it was founded on a system of class-legislation: he admitted that it was for the protection of a class—for the protection of honest men against thieves.

The amendments were withdrawn, and the bill was ordered for a third reading on Friday.

Friday, July 12th.

POOR LAW AMENDMENT BILL.

The House went into committee on this bill.

On the 22nd clause, constituting *ex officio* guardians, Mr BORTHWICK proposed to include the parochial clergy. Sir J. GRAHAM said, he had considered this question, and had not thought it consistent with his duty to propose the inclusion of the clergy. Their duties were very numerous, and in order to the beneficial performance of them, it was very desirable to prevent the unpopularity which clergymen

would be likely to incur if they should be placed in a situation where they might be supposed the partisans either of the ratepayers against the recipients of relief, or of the recipients of relief against the ratepayers. Mr COCHRANE, Sir W. JAMES, Mr FERRAND, Mr DUNCOMER, and Lord JOHN MANNERS supported; Mr G. KNIGHT, Mr AGLIONBY, Mr DABRY, and Mr CRIPPS opposed Mr Borthwick's motion, which was finally withdrawn.

The 24th clause, relating to expenses incurred for insane paupers, gave rise to some general discussion on the state of the insane poor throughout England. Lord ASHLEY, who, with some other gentlemen, has for some time been occupied in a commission of inquiry into the condition of lunatics, informed the House that in England and Wales there were 17,000 lunatics, and accommodation only for 4,500. He said that in Wales this accommodation was especially deficient, and that the pauper lunatics in that principality were kept in the most miserable state, in sheds, in outhouses, and in receptacles under ground. He intended shortly to bring this subject before the House, with an especial view to the making of some provision for the care of lunatics in the first stage of their disease, it being generally practicable to effect their cure when undertaken early. Sir J. GRAHAM fully felt the great importance of this subject, and the necessity for the speedy consideration of it by parliament.

On the 28th clause, Mr C. WOOD proposed that the nomination of auditors should be taken away from the chairmen of unions, and vested in the poor law commissioners, deeming it inexpedient that the person employed to check the accounts of a body should owe his appointment to the presiding member of that body itself. This question provoked some discussion. Sir J. GRAHAM would not consent to alter the clause, which, in his judgment, made the best attainable provision for securing an efficient check upon the accounts of the unions. A division took place, and Mr C. Wood's amendment was rejected.

Captain Pechell moved that this 28th clause should not be applicable to unions under local acts. Sir J. GRAHAM opposed that exception. Mr T. DUNCOMER supported it. He regarded the clause as an underhand way contrived by ministers for carrying that repeal of the local acts which they durst not propose openly. A division being called for, Captain Pechell's amendment was rejected.

Colonel SIBTHORP then took a division against the entire clause; but he also was defeated by a large majority.

At clause 31, Captain Pechell proposed an adjournment; and Sir J. GRAHAM only stipulated that three more clauses should be taken, so as to conclude that division of the bill which relates to the subject of audit. This was agreed to on all hands; and clause 34 having been passed, the CHAIRMAN reported progress.

Saturday, July 13th.

POOR LAW AMENDMENT BILL.

The House met at one o'clock on Saturday, and went into committee on the Poor Law Amendment bill.

Colonel WOOD desired the postponement of the enactments authorising the combination of parishes or unions into school districts. He objected to the collection of great numbers of children into large schools, notwithstanding the alleged success of the experiment at Norwood; and urged the superior advantages of those schools where the children were kept in connexion with their parents.

Mr W. COWPER vindicated the collective system, and insisted on the success of the Norwood institution.

Sir J. GRAHAM explained that no district was to include any parish of which any point would be more than fifteen miles distant from any other part of such district. The districts would be so narrowed, that the children might be visited by their parents and friends on Sundays and holidays. This system was strongly recommended in the reports of several committees. By establishing, within a few miles of the metropolis, four or five institutions like that at Norwood, the best education, physical, moral, and religious, would be provided for the pauper children in the workhouses of London, of whom there were now 8,000 requiring education. These enactments had been prepared in a spirit of liberality and complete toleration, and he trusted that they would not be postponed.

Mr WAKLEY enlarged upon the ignorance of the lower orders of his countrymen, and upon the importance of educating them.

Sir J. GRAHAM desired it might be understood that the clauses in question would not be capable of application to rural districts. They were intended for the population of towns and their environs, and for such population alone.

Lord JOHN MANNERS, Mr MILNES, and Mr M'GRACHY urged the importance of committing the functions of education to the clergy of the established church.

Mr V. SMITH proposed some words intended to have the effect of extending the applicability of these clauses to the rural districts.

This amendment was negatived on a division.

Sir J. GRAHAM, on an appeal from Mr Henly, respecting the necessity of committing this education to the established clergy, declared that he was still, as he had before shown himself to be, favourable to this principle; and he gave notice that in clause 38 he would move the introduction of words providing that every district board should appoint at least one chaplain of the established church, as one of their paid officers, who, under the board's control should superintend the religious instruction of the infant poor.

On the question that the clause should stand part of the bill, another division was taken, in which Lord JOHN MANNERS, apparently through some misapprehension, was the sole dissident.

The House then resumed. During the discussion a personal matter arose between Mr WODEHOUSE and Mr WAKLEY, the former insinuating that the latter was practically familiar with the crime of incendiarism. Mr WAKLEY, feeling that this was an intended allusion to an incident in his life, which had been the subject of much comment, took up the subject, and explained the circumstances, complaining of this horrid and unjustifiable aspersion on his private character. Mr WODEHOUSE retracted his observations, and apologised for their use.

Monday, July 15th.

POOR LAW AMENDMENT BILL.

The House sat at 12 o'clock, for the purpose of proceeding with the committee on the Poor Law Amendment Bill. On the 36th clause, Mr CHRISTOPHER urged the expediency of establishing in each union workhouse a ward for those houseless poor who were journeying in quest of employment, or of their parishes. Sir J. GRAHAM was favourable to this suggestion, though he considered it not to be strictly connected with the clause in discussion. At present it was not unusual to commit these wanderers to prison; but he thought it much better to provide them with a temporary asylum than to send them to gaol. Three or four of these asylums, in well-selected localities, would enable the police to bring such persons where they might have shelter for a night, or even refuge for three or four days, and due care in case of sickness. Such an arrangement would fulfil the duties of Christianity and humanity, which he feared were neglected under the present system. Mr COCHRANE expressed his delight at the speech of the Secretary of State. He doubted whether anything was saved by the present poor law; the rates now showed a tendency to gradual increase. There was a division upon the 36th clause, which was sustained by a large majority.

The next clause gave rise to more objections, and the committee was finally adjourned without passing it, to Wednesday (this day) at 12 o'clock.

THE IRISH STATE TRIALS.

The House re-assembled at five o'clock, when, after some preliminary business,

Mr WYSE made a motion for a committee to inquire into the circumstances of the formation of the special jury upon the late Irish trials. He said that there were petitions from nearly 1,000,000 of the Irish people for such an inquiry. He demanded it for them, on the allegation that the trial had not been a fair one. He entered into a disquisition upon the public feeling in Ireland with respect to repeal. He went through a long series of technical details as to the jury-lists, imputing partiality to Mr Magrath, the officer employed in the business of the jury revision under the recorder of Dublin. He charged the government with having been themselves the founders of Mr O'Connell's importance, and finished with some warm remonstrances and admonitions to the government.

Lord ELZER complained that the speech of Mr Wyse was far more comprehensive than the terms of the motion led him to anticipate. He defended the management of the trials; denied that the jury lists were tampered with; and contended that if the panel had been quashed, in the case of Mr O'Connell, it would have affected every cause to be tried by special jury during the present year. The legality of the conviction was still *sub judice*, and it would not be a very regular or proper proceeding to appoint a committee to inquire into that which was under the consideration of the judges of the land. Denying the allegation of fraud, he urged that an inquiry would lead to no satisfactory result.

Mr M. J. O'CONNELL adduced local details, in order to prove the allegations of unfairness in making up the jury lists, and contended that to leave the matter uninvestigated, would only deepen the conviction in the minds of the Irish people, that the state trials were but tyranny working its wantonness under the forms of law.

The Solicitor-General argued, that a dangerous conspiracy, threatening the dismemberment of the empire, had been put down, not by extraordinary powers, but by the ordinary process of law, which had vindicated its supremacy, and laid the offenders against it prostrate at its feet. Nothing had occurred on the trials which would not have taken place under similar circumstances in this country. The Irish Attorney-general had overcome the technical difficulties by which he was beset, as much by his moderation and fairness, as by the ability and ingenuity which he manifested; and though the jury list was admittedly defective, the challenge to the array on the ground of fraud was not sustained by facts, was not good in law, and rested on mere technicalities, unworthy of the cause and the advocates engaged. It had been stated that the Lord Chancellor had admitted that the jury list was fraudulently constructed; but he had only assumed that there was fraud in order that the legal question raised on it might be discussed and decided. The facts, as well as the law, had been gone into before the House of Lords; he had himself carefully gone over the whole case, and was conscientiously of opinion, that there was no foundation for the allegation that the unfortunate error in the construction of the lists arose from fraud; and feeling that no practical result could arise from an inquiry by a committee of the House, he opposed the motion.

Mr V. STUART, after some animadversions on the Chief Justice, declared that, much as he regretted the occurrences against which the prosecution had

been directed, he would rather see them renewed than behold the injury under which the law was now suffering from the recent perversion of it. He then addressed the House at some length on the critical condition of Ireland.

Mr GROGAN and Mr JOHN O'BRIEN followed, the latter addressing the House in an eloquent speech on the general condition of Ireland.

When he concluded, no person rising, there was a call for a division, the gallery was cleared, and the result was,

For Mr Wyse's motion	73
Against it	91
Majority	—18

MISCELLANEOUS.

DOG STEALING.—A select committee of the Commons was appointed, on Tuesday, on the motion of Mr Liddell, to inquire into the allegations of a petition presented last session, praying for further protection against the depredations of dog stealers in the metropolis. When the committee came to be nominated, on Thursday, Mr Labouchere divided the House against it; as he objected to the appointment of committees for such trivial objects. There was a majority, however, of 27 for nominating the committee; only 8 voting against it.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE.—On Friday evening Sir James Graham brought in a bill for the better administration of criminal justice in Middlesex. The effect of the measure will be to give Middlesex magistrates jurisdiction in Westminster; to hold the adjourned quarter sessions twice every month; and to provide a separate prison, so as to relieve Newgate. The magistrates had consented that the appointment of chairman should vest in the Crown. The bill was read a first time.

THE COUNTY COURTS BILL was abandoned on Friday evening.

RAILWAYS BILL.—On Saturday, the committee on this bill was postponed till next Thursday by Mr GLADSTONE, who said that he had some amendments to propose, arising out of suggestions which had been made to him in the course of recent interviews with the authorities of several leading companies. After some observations from other members, he repeated his explanation, given in former debates, that there was no intention of calling on Parliament for any decision as to the policy of future intervention by government; and that government had no thoughts of intervening at all, except for some great national purpose, and on a comprehensive scale.

THE CHURCH ENDOWMENT ACT.—On Monday, Sir ROBERT PEEL obtained leave to bring in a bill to amend the Church Endowment act of last session, which he stated had already given a great impetus to the extension of church accommodation, and the means of spiritual instruction.

Up to the present date there had been 246 applications to the Ecclesiastical commissioners for appointments under the bill; thirty-four appointments had been gazetted, and engagements had been entered into with 134 persons. Those who were appointed had the care of districts containing a population of 130,000 persons, and provision was made for districts with a population of 500,000. The act had given a great impetus to the church through the voluntary exertions of individuals.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, July 11th.

SEES OF ST ASAPH AND BANGOR.

The Earl of POWIS withdrew the bill for repealing the union of the Sees of Bangor and St Asaph; as he had ascertained that the consent of the Crown would not be given. He was satisfied, however, that the matter would not rest as it was.

The Bishop of SALISBURY said, the Duke of Wellington had been greatly mistaken in asserting that the bill, if passed, would prevent the establishment of a bishop of Manchester; and that it would interfere with the appointments of archdeacons, and also the augmentations of the benefices of parochial clergy. He made the following significant allusion to the connexion between church and state:—

The friends of the church who supported this bill were not insensible to the advantage the church derived from connexion with the state; but they knew that the true strength of the church, its best support, its most abiding security, was that which was inherent in itself—that which man did not give, and which man could not take away—that which was found in the purity of the doctrines taught—the apostolical order of the constitution inherited, and the piety and zeal with which the clergy discharged the sacred functions entrusted to them. If any one thing was calculated more than another to excite dissatisfaction with the relation which now existed between the church and state, it would be to see the authority of the state and the prerogative of the crown brought in overbearing influence upon the church (hear, hear)—not for the extension and encouragement of the spiritual efficiency of the church, but to control and cripple it (hear, hear).

The Duke of WELLINGTON said, there was no mistake. He had read the reports of the Commissioners and the Act of Parliament; and he repeated, that the bill would affect the whole superstructure of the power to carry out the necessary arrangements under the existing law, and would tend to destroy all the machinery which had been provided for carrying out the recommendations of the Commissioners. As to the use he had made of the prerogative of the Crown in this case, the Duke said he had not stopped the discussion of the bill; he had only advised its withdrawal, as it was not usual to proceed with such a measure when the consent of the Crown was not signified.

After some further discussion, the bill was withdrawn.

Friday, July 12th.

In reply to questions put by the Marquis of CLANMORRIS,

The Earl of RIPON stated that there was no foundation for the rumour that an army of eighty thousand men was collected on the frontiers of the Punjab, under the command of Sir Charles Napier, for the purpose of invading and conquering territories not now subject to the British crown. The noble earl pledged himself that neither the government here nor that in India had the slightest idea of conquest on the north-west or any other point of the British territory of India.

BANK CHARTER BILL.

The Earl of RIPON moved the committal of the Bank Charter bill, and, at some length, explained the principles on which it was based, and the provisions it contained.

Lord MONTEAGLE praised the measure generally, its chief merit being, according to his opinion, that it was an approximation to a single bank of issue. One provision he condemned, that which gives to the government the profit of the increased circulation of the bank beyond a certain amount. He thought it an objectionable principle to make the government partners with the bank.

Lord ASHBURTON looked upon the present measure as a great experiment, of the result of which he felt not so sanguine as his noble friends. The division of the bank departments he regarded as a delusion. The checks put on the issues of the Bank of England he apprehended would not work so successfully as was anticipated. The reconstruction of the country banks at the end of ten years he believed would turn out a more difficult task than the framers of the bill looked for. The power of extending the issues of the bank given to the government, he regarded as most dangerous; for when the country was at war, the most pressing and greedy customer of the bank was the treasury, and, under such circumstances, the power of the government was fatal to the independence of the bank. On that ground he contended that they might give a restraining, but they ought never to give an extending, power to the government.

The Earl of RADNOR said he knew that this bill was generally approved of, because it was thought it would obviate the difficulties in reference to fluctuations in prices; but this he feared was a delusive hope, for his opinion was, that, instead of preventing fluctuations in prices, this bill would increase that evil.

Their lordships went into committee, and agreed to all the clauses without any amendment.

Monday, July 15th.

DISSENTERS' CHAPELS BILL.

The Lord CHANCELLOR moved that their lordships should agree to the amendments made by the House of Commons in the Dissenters' Chapels bill, and, addressing himself to an anticipated motion by the Bishop of London, that the amendments should be considered that day three months, recounted the several stages in which the general principle of the bill had been affirmed in either house; and after showing that the amendments themselves were of so trivial a character as by no means to affect the general character of the bill, called upon their lordships to refrain from stultifying themselves and casting such a slight upon the House of Commons as the adoption of the proposed motion would involve.

The Bishop of LONDON admitted that he was taking an unusual course, only to be justified by the urgency of the case. In opposing the bill at this final stage, his conduct might be deemed pertinacious; but as all the arguments urged in opposition to the bill remained unanswered, pertinacity became a virtue. After arguing at considerable length against the bill, he moved that the amendments of the Commons be taken into consideration that day three months.

The right rev. prelate was also opposed by Lords BROUGHAM and COTTENHAM and the Bishops of DURHAM and NORWICH; and, although Lord RUSSEL warmly condemned the bill, and expressed deep regret that a conservative government should have brought forward a measure so essentially unconservative, the Lord Chancellor's motion was carried by 202 to 41: majority, 161.

The Complete Suffrage Movement.

Birmingham, July 15, 1844.

The Council of the National Complete Suffrage Union met at their rooms, 37, Waterloo street, today—Mr Sturge in the chair.

THE BIRMINGHAM ELECTION.

The result of the Birmingham election having been reported,

Mr MORGAN moved that Mr Perry do take the chair, until a resolution he held in his hand was disposed of. He begged to move:—

"That the warmest thanks of this Council are due to our esteemed President for having contested the representation of the borough of Birmingham upon complete suffrage principles, and to the 346 electors who manfully avowed their attachment to those principles by recording their votes in his favour. This Council deeply regret that so small a number of electors redeemed, by their votes, the pledges of support given to Mr Sturge at the great town's meeting, when he was unanimously invited to stand the contest; renewed as those pledges were on the day of nomination, especially as it appears that a great number of electors voted contrary to their real opinions, and, instead of supporting Mr Sturge, wasted their influence in vainly attempting, some to keep out the whig, and some the tory. This Council earnestly hope that the friends of political freedom will ever be true to their principles, as Mr Sturge and his steady supporters have been on this occasion, and they will effectually prevent in future the dictation of its own terms by vague and undefined liberalism."

He was glad to find that, notwithstanding the discouraging aspect which the result of the contest at first sight exhibited, the feeling which prevailed amongst their friends was of the most hopeful kind, and he had no doubt but as soon as the merits of the contest were understood and appreciated, it would be seen that the course which Mr Sturge had pursued was the right one.

The SECRETARY, who, as an elector in Edgbaston ward, had taken some part in the contest, begged to second the motion. He said:—Since the result of the election became known, I have been frequently asked the question, "How could Mr Sturge's committee advise him to go to the poll, with such a miserable prospect of success as the canvass must have indicated?" This question I might have answered by asking another—"How did it happen that, out of 6388 registered electors, only 346 had the moral courage to vote for the man who was all but the unanimous choice of their fellow-townsmen?" But I shall deal with it by facts and figures, and endeavour to show that, even on the narrow ground of electoral data, there was good reason to expect a far different result from that which was actually realised. The facts are these:—The executive committee, under whose direction the management of the canvass proceeded, reported to a meeting, held in this room on Thursday evening, that the promises given for Mr Sturge were twenty-five per cent. in advance of those given for Mr Scholefield, and that, if both sections of the liberal voters were to unite they would beat the tory by a majority of thirty-three per cent. From the shortness of the time allowed for the election, and especially from the sudden and unexpected manner in which the vacancy occurred, it was found to be impossible to overtake all the wards, and make an efficient canvass of the town. But, on the assumption that the districts canvassed afforded a fair index to the state of feeling in the uncanvassed districts, the committee concluded that there was a decided majority of the liberal interest in favour of Mr Sturge. That this conclusion was perfectly correct, has been proved by these facts:—The parish of Edgbaston is the most conservative in Birmingham. The results of the canvass there came under my own personal observation; and nobody will deny that, if the results in the other twelve wards are to be measured by this standard, the radical interest will get but bare justice. Well, on Saturday evening, after examining the canvass books, I found that one fourth of the votes promised only had voted for Mr Sturge—one fourth for Mr Scholefield—one vote went to Mr Spooner, and the remaining half did not poll at all. Assuming that the case stood the same in the other wards, or that it stands the same on the general average in all the thirteen wards, the number of voters who ought to have gone for Mr Sturge would have been 1384, viz.,

Voted for Mr Sturge	346
Promised for Mr Sturge, who voted for Mr Scholefield	346
Add those who promised for Mr Sturge, but did not vote (being half of the whole promised)	692

1384

Nor does this include those who voted for Mr Spooner from a mistaken sense of duty, and takes no account of many names which were entered in the canvass books as undecided or neutral. It thus appears that the committee were perfectly right when they announced, from time to time, that the canvass was decidedly in favour of Mr Sturge. The question, nevertheless, still remains, How did it come to pass that the whig candidate was, after all, able to poll so many as 1735 votes. In Edgbaston ward, we are at no loss how to answer that question. You will observe that for the first hour Mr Sturge was a-head of Mr Scholefield, and I believe Mr Spooner was further a-head of both than was expected, even by his own friends. Soon after nine o'clock, Mr Scholefield's numbers increased more rapidly, and by ten the hue and cry was raised that if the liberals did not vote for him the tory would get in, and Birmingham would become a by-word and a scorn throughout the land. By one, cars were flying in all directions, and every endeavour was made to bias the independent electors in favour of the whig. Three times did I observe cars pull up at the doors of two voters who had resolved not to vote at all; while no fewer than six different parties pleaded as if it had been a case of death and life with another, to vote for Scholefield, and keep Spooner from getting in. False reports were spread of the numbers polled, evidently with a view to produce the impression, that while the case for Mr Sturge was hopeless, the whig might yet be returned. By means such as these, the votes for Mr Scholefield were greatly swelled in the afternoon, and on this ground alone, the facts being applicable to every ward in the town, can the discrepancy between the number recorded for Mr Scholefield, and the number for Mr Sturge, be explained. While so many of our timid friends thus proved themselves to be unequal to the contest for principle, it is gratifying to know, that amongst the little band who stood firm by the truth then, was one who "could not rest," to use his own words, until he had recorded his vote for Mr Sturge—I mean Mr James Baker, a member of the Society of Friends. Aged and infirm, he sent for his voting card, and though he was unable to go to the car without assistance, he drove to the poll and tendered his vote like a man. In view of all these facts and circumstances, it does not admit of a doubt, that if the whig candidate had withdrawn in time, in obedience to the wish of his fellow-townsmen whom he has attempted to misrepresent, the return of Mr Sturge was certain. The contest, however, has ended otherwise. The

struggle is over, and we have now reached, in this eventful crisis, the beginning of the end.

The motion having been passed unanimously, Mr STURGE said—Past experience has proved the soundness of the ground on which we now stand. We have shown that we hold the balance of power, and that there are amongst us a few who have the moral courage to use it for the people's good. If anything of the kind occur again, I trust there will be no canvassing [hear]. All that is wanted would be to put each elector in possession of the sentiments of the candidates, enclosed in a note, stating the time of the election, and where he had to poll. In reviewing the proceedings at the recent contest, I regret that while so many of our friends declined to vote at all, some supported William Scholefield against their own judgment, and others voted contrary to their real opinions, for no other purpose than to keep out Richard Spooner. On one sheet, I believe no fewer than sixteen names were entered as having voted for Richard Spooner, who were in favour of universal suffrage. It is a cause of great satisfaction that, notwithstanding the provocation which many of our friends received by the publication of what are called electioneering squibs, no retaliation was indulged in [hear]. I have come to the conclusion, that the course we have now entered on is a right one, and that if it be acted out, it will not only break down that party who have ever been opposed to the rights of the people, but will raise highly the standard of independence amongst the people themselves, and effectually break down the influence of undefined liberalism, which has so long obstructed the progress of democratic reform [hear].

BEDFORD.—The cause of complete suffrage is gradually making way in this town and neighbourhood, in spite of all the influence that is leagued against it. Mr Vincent was the first to introduce the subject, about eight months ago; and last week the town was completely aroused on the question, by Mr Vincent's paying us another visit, and delivering three lectures in the Castle rooms. The meetings were very numerous, and by some of the most respectable and influential inhabitants, including many ladies. The meetings were intensely interested in the noble principles promulgated by Mr Vincent, and gave vent to their feelings in a manner which must have highly gratified him. So heartily were his principles responded to, that many people have been declaring that he would stand a good chance of success if he were to contest the borough, in the event of an election. Next to the gratification of seeing the principles spread in the town, was the presence of people from the neighbouring villages, some of whom came at least twelve miles each evening. Mr Francis presided over the meetings. Votes of thanks were given, with three times three cheers. Mr Vincent intends to visit St Neots and St Albans, at his earliest opportunity. The country is ripe for the reception of complete suffrage principles, if the leading suffragists would but bestir themselves and work with zeal.

General News.

FOREIGN.

AMERICA.

The United States Congress had adjourned on the appointed day, the 17th ult., without having transacted any business of importance. The senate had confirmed the nomination of Mr Cushing, as minister to China, and also that of Dr Clemens, son-in-law of Mr Calhoun, as chargé d'affaires to Belgium. Congress will not again convene until the first week in December, unless called together sooner by the President. It was rumoured that Mr Tyler contemplated an extra session shortly after the members had mingled with their constituents, believing that the people would change their opinions, and, consequently, the action of their representatives, on the question of Texan annexation, and especially in the south and south-west.

The Zollverein treaty had been rejected by the senate—first, it is said, because it interferes with the protective policy; and, secondly, because it would violate one of the provisions of a commercial treaty with this country.

It would appear, from a letter written by General Jackson, ex-president, that he joins in the Texas and Oregon annexation mania. The *Times*' correspondent expresses the utmost confidence that Henry Clay, the anti-annexation candidate for the presidency, will be the next president of the United States.

We perceive, by the Irish papers of New York, that the repeal meetings are to be revived. One was held at Washington hall on Tuesday evening. It was resolved to collect the whole amount of O'Connell's fine, and 1,000 dollars were received at once. It is proposed that this state shall contribute the whole amount in anticipation of any other.

The New York papers contain a letter from Captain Elliott, the British chargé d'affaires at Texas, to the Hon A. Jones, secretary of state of that republic, dated Galveston, April 3, in which the former urges Texas to abandon the annexation project, and seek a permanent settlement of her difficulties with Mexico, of the attainment of which desirable consummation he expresses himself as highly confident. The letter has brought out many sharp animadversions from the press. Foreign American advices inform us positively, that Mexico will not submit to the annexation of Texas to the United States, and that the Mexicans are united to a man in opposition to it.

The Canada parliament has been further prorogued to the 3rd of August next, and not then to meet for the "despatch of business." Sir Charles Metcalfe

made his public entrance into Montreal on the 24th ult., and met with a hearty reception.

FRANCE.—The Duchess of Nemours was, on Friday last, safely delivered of a prince, "to whom," says the *Journal des Débats*, "the King gave the name of Duke of Alençon." The infant was to be christened yesterday by the Archbishop of Paris.

The Chamber of Peers on Saturday passed the Paris and Lyons Railway bill, after adopting two important modifications on the bill as passed by the Chamber of Deputies. They rejected the amendments which had been introduced into the bill, proposing that the rails of that line should be laid down by government.

There are in the Paris journals further accounts (to the 6th inst.) from Algiers, but they contain nothing new of importance from Morocco. A letter from Algiers (of the 6th inst.) quoted in the *Journal des Débats*, mentions that the corps commanded by Marshal Bugeaud was still in observation on the western frontier, and that the Moors had not been seen since their last defeat.

SPAIN.—Letters from Madrid, of the 4th instant, mention active preparations for war with Morocco. It is stated that an army of 6,000 men is under orders for Ceuta; and that the plan of operations is, to make an attack upon Tangiers. The regiment of Galicia, which was to form part of the expedition to Morocco, left Madrid on the 7th inst. The Captain-general reviewed it previous to its departure, and addressed to the men an harangue, which was responded to with enthusiasm. The regiment of Baylen followed on the next day.

The resignation of the Marquis de Zeluma, the late minister of foreign affairs, had been officially accepted. General Narvaez fills the office *ad interim*. The following telegraphic despatch was received on Monday:—*Bayona, July 13th*. "The Cortes are dissolved by a decree of the 4th inst., inserted in the *Gazette* of the 10th; the electoral colleges are convoked for the 3rd of September. The general ballot is to take place on the 14th. The new Cortes are to meet on the 10th of October."

"Another decree of the 4th re-establishes, in the Basque provinces, the deputations and municipalities according to the Fueros. The General Juntas are shortly to assemble, and to appoint commissioners to negotiate with the government the question of the Fueros which shall be submitted to the approaching Cortes."

"Nothing has been changed in the customs or the administration of justice, or the police."

"A third decree orders the removal of the remains of Montes de Oca from Vittoria to Madrid."

ITALY.

Private letters from Leghorn, of the 2nd instant, state that the greatest surprise and disappointment was manifested generally at Florence, on the arrival of the parliamentary disclosures respecting the opening of letters in the English Post office. It lowered England, which had previously stood so high in the esteem of Italians, to find that, in a free country, whose example and remonstrances they hoped would, in time, operate beneficially on their own governments, a system was tolerated and practised analogous to that which causes such disgust among themselves.

Private letters contradict a statement in a Paris paper of Saturday, that "the two Bandieras and their unfortunate companions, made prisoners on the 19th ult. in Calabria, would not be executed." "The affair was referred to the Austrian government by that of Naples," says our correspondent. "The reply was such as might be expected.—'Deal with them [though subjects of Austria] as with any other offenders.' " "This," continues our correspondent, "is a sentence of death, for there is an express law in Naples which meets their case. They will consequently be shot."—*Times*.

A letter from Bologna, of the 4th, states that the military commission sitting there has passed sentence on the third batch of prisoners implicated in the political events of 1843. The sentences had been forwarded under seal to Rome, and the *esequatur* was daily expected. These prisoners consist of forty persons, some of them of the higher ranks of society. It is said that none are to be condemned to death but those who have effected their escape to foreign countries, and are condemned *par contumace*.

HAYTI.

The United States ship *Preble* had arrived at New York from a cruise on the Spanish main, and last from Aux Cayes, Hayti, where she had been, for some time actively employed in protecting the lives and property of the Americans. Affairs were somewhat settled when the *Preble* left; but it was thought that tranquillity would not long continue, as the rebel chief, Accaon, manifested considerable reluctance to submit to the authority of General Guerrier.

President Guerrier appears to act with energy. His cabinet consists of M. Hyppolite, sometimes called Gelm (a black), minister of war and the exterior; M. Paul (a black), minister of the interior and agriculture; M. H. Fery (a coloured man), minister of public instruction, of justice, and religion; M. Laudin (coloured), minister of finances and commerce; all well educated and influential men, and popular with all parties.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—The legislative assembly of New South Wales have passed a law abolishing imprisonment for debt in that colony.

ENGLISH SETTLERS IN THE OREGON TERRITORY.—On the ruins of Lord Selkirk's settlement on the Red river, the Hudson's Bay Company have established a community which is steadily rising to prosperity and importance. A chain of posts connects this frontier settlement of the eastern portion of British North America with the company's establishments on the west coast. The most important of these is Fort Vancouver on the Columbia; which has already advanced from a mere trading station to the dignity of an agricultural colony. It exports produce to the Sandwich Islands. Similar colonies are growing up in the principal valleys to the northward; and in the neighbourhood of Fort M'Loughlin coal has been found "of excellent quality, running in extensive fields, and even in clumpy mounds, and most easily worked, all along that part of the country." The Wallamette settlement, of which American writers talk so much, clearly appears from Mr Dunn's statements to be a British, not an American, settlement. It was founded seventeen or eighteen years ago, by retired servants of the Hudson's Bay Company, who are now owners of thriving farms. A number of American missionaries, and a few American farmers, have settled among them; but the bulk of the inhabitants are British subjects. The settlement has grown up under the protection of the delegated authority of the Hudson's Bay Company; and British law, as far as it is applicable to such an infant settlement, prevails there. That all the territory north of the parallel of the Lower Columbia, at least, will be retained by the British government, there can be no doubt. It is already occupied by British subjects: British laws and forms of administration already prevail there. British feeling—that is, the feelings of Englishmen, Scotchmen, and Canadians, as opposed to those of the republicans of the Union—are there in the ascendancy.—*Spectator*.

A MONSTER MACHINE.—An Amsterdam letter announces the landing of the machine for draining the Lake of Haarlem. It was constructed at the foundry of Messrs Harvey and Co., at Hayle, Cornwall, is twelve English feet square, and weighs 31,000lbs.

THE CANADIAN CORN AND FLOUR TRADE.—The accounts from Montreal, received by the steamer, state that the quantity of Canadian flour and wheat sent to this country, this year, will be much larger than last. Up to the 25th of May, the arrivals at Montreal, this year, were 128,167 barrels of flour, and 73,763 bushels of wheat, against 54,847 barrels of flour, and 20,211 bushels of wheat, to the same date in 1843. To the last advices, very few vessels had arrived in the St Lawrence, but the spring fleet was expected to arrive shortly, and it was believed that very large shipments would then take place.—*Liverpool Times*.

The *Catholic Herald* of Philadelphia, April 11, 1844, has the following:—"From 1834 to 1844 the enlargement of Romish interests in this country has been astonishing. The population, from being 500,000, has become, according to general estimate, more than 1,000,000—some say, 1,500,000. The priests have multiplied from 300 to 634: the dioceses have become twenty-three, and the bishops twenty-five (six having been added during the past year). All these items, therefore, have more than doubled in ten years."

THE BOY JONES OVERBOARD.—"The boy Jones," now on board the *Warspite*, in the Mediterranean, fell into the sea in June last, in the night time, and was not recovered until the "life buoy" was set on fire, and thrown into the water after him. It was a fine night and the officers suspected that he had fallen overboard purposely, simply to have his curiosity gratified by an exhibition of the blazing buoy. When at home, he "dropt in" to see the Queen; and now that he is at sea he "drops in" upon old Neptune.

FREE TRADE MEASURES OF AUSTRIA.—A recent letter from Vienna states, that "the change of tariff, determined on in favour of a free trade with foreign countries, is to be put in force on the 1st of next November. Eighteen articles will, it is said, undergo a reduction in the entrance dues."

FROST, WILLIAMS, AND JONES.—We have seen a letter, dated Van Diemen's Land, Feb. 14, and addressed to a party in this city, in which the writer, who has frequent opportunities of hearing of these exiles, says they are all well in health and spirits, and, owing to recent alterations in the convict system, are now at liberty in the colony, and are, consequently, free to dispose of their labour as they please.—*Bath Journal*.

A letter from Rome states, that on the 17th of last month, and the three following days, the town of Palestrina was visited with shocks of an earthquake. No person perished.

CAPTURE OF A PIRATE.—Advices from Auckland, New Zealand, announce the capture of the brigantine *Hannah*, of Sydney, by the harbour master, Mr Rough, and a party of the 80th regiment; the *Hannah* having been piratically seized by William Ellis and eight seamen, whilst lying at the Chatham islands, where Ellis had put the captain, Bell, ashore. He shot the supercargo and a seaman, and put them ashore at another place, though both were supposed to be mortally wounded.

A letter from Venice, dated the 28th June, mentions that a violent storm occurred in the night of the 16th, in the province of Padua. It uprooted large trees, threw down two substantially-built houses, four barns, and a mill, destroyed the sluices, and carried away two vessels on one of the rivers. Two young girls were killed, and twenty-two persons more or less injured, by the falling of the houses.

THE MANCHESTER.—By a letter received at Lloyd's from their agent at Hamburg, it appears that the wreck of the above vessel has entirely disappeared in the sands, and that no further salvage can take

place. The goods saved along the coast have been sold for about £1,500.

MARRIAGE OF THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT.—People generally were not a little astonished on Thursday, June 27, by an announcement of the marriage, on the previous evening, in New York, of Mr Tyler, President of the United States, to Julia, daughter of the late Colonel Gardiner, of New York, who was killed by the recent explosion on board the *Princeton*. The happy couple are gone to the Rip Raps, a watering place in Virginia, to spend the honeymoon. The lady is accomplished, beautiful, and about twenty-two or twenty-four years of age. The President is fifty-five years old.—*Chronicle Correspondent*.

DOMESTIC.

METROPOLITAN.

IRISH STATE TRIALS.

At the close of the arguments on Wednesday, the Lord Chancellor said he had, in conjunction with his noble and learned friends, prepared several questions, which they wished to submit to the consideration of the Queen's judges. The noble and learned lord handed them to the Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas. The following are the questions:—

"1. Are all, or any, and if any, which, of the counts in the indictment bad in law, so that if such count or counts stood alone in the indictment, no judgment against the defendants could properly be entered upon them?"

"2. Is there any, and if any, what, defect in the finding of the jury upon the trial of the said indictment, and in entering of such finding?"

"3. Is there any sufficient ground for reversing the indictment, by means of any defect in the indictment, or of the finding, or entering of the findings of the jury upon the said indictment?"

"4. Is there any sufficient ground to reverse the judgment by reason of the matters stated in the pleas in abatement, or any of them, or in the judgment upon such pleas?"

"5. Is there any sufficient ground for reversing the judgment on account of the continuing the trial in the vacation, or of the order of the Court for that purpose?"

"6. Is there any sufficient ground for reversing the judgment on account of the judgment of the Court overruling and disallowing the challenge to the array, or any or either of them; or of the matters stated in such challenge?"

"7. Is there sufficient ground to reverse the judgment by reason of any defect in the entry of continuances from the said trial to the 15th day of April, regard being also had to the appearance of the defendants on the said last-named day?"

"8. Is there any sufficient ground to reverse or vary the judgment on account of the sentences, or any, or either of them, passed on the respective defendants, regard being had particularly to the recognisances required, and to the period of imprisonment dependent on the entering into such recognisances?"

"9. Is there any sufficient ground to reverse the judgment on account of the judgments in the assignments of error *coram nobis*, or any or either of them, or of the matters stated in such assignments of error, or any or either of them?"

"10. Is there any sufficient ground for reversing the judgment by reason of its not containing any entry as to the verdicts of acquittal?"

"11. In an indictment consisting of counts A, B, C, where the verdict is guilty of all generally, and the counts A B are good, and the count C is bad, the judgment being, that the defendants, for the offences aforesaid, be fined and imprisoned, which judgment would be sufficient, in point of law, if confined expressly to counts A and B, can such judgment be reversed on a writ of error? Will it make any difference whether the punishment be discretionary, as above suggested, or a punishment fixed by law?"

It was generally expected that the judgment would have been given on Thursday, and numbers of persons assembled in the House of Lords with that expectation. It appears, however, from a statement in the *Morning Chronicle*, that the reply of the judges has not been received, and that they are gone on their respective circuits. Lord Chief Justice Tindal remained in London on Thursday, "to prepare draft answers to the queries, to be forwarded to the other judges on circuit, who attended the argument in the Lords. As some days must elapse before the replies of the judges can be received, the judgment is of course deferred."

LONDON UNIVERSITY.—In the M.A. examination for this year, the gold medal (value £20) for mathematics and natural philosophy, was obtained by Mr G. Jessell, University college. The £20 gold medal for logic, moral and political philosophy, &c., was awarded to Mr E. R. Conder, Spring Hill college. Among those who passed the matriculation examination, are the following gentlemen connected with dissenting colleges:—

First division.

Anthony, Daniel,	Homerton college.
Chisholm, John,	Stonyhurst college.
Halley, Robert,	Manchester New college.
Kington, G. W.,	Stepney college.
Lees, John,	Lancashire Indep. col.
Maher, W. J.,	Stonyhurst.
Pereira, L. A.,	Ditto.
Porter, G.,	Ditto.
Sibree, John,	Springhill college.
Southwell, B.,	Ditto.
Stowell, W.,	Coward college.
Stowbridge, C.,	Stonyhurst.

Second division.

Best, Robert,	Homerton.
Chignell, T. A.,	Ditto.
Galloway, J.,	Stonyhurst.
Porter, C. W.,	Ditto.
Ryan, T.,	Ditto.
Spink, J. P.,	Cheshunt.
Turner, J. E.,	Homerton.
Whyte, E.,	Stonyhurst.
Williams, Morgan,	Homerton.

FELLOWS OF UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON.—At a session of the council on Saturday last, the three undermentioned gentlemen, formerly students of the college, who had graduated with honours at the University of London, were admitted members of the corporate body of the college, under the title of "Fellows," and had shares conferred on them, viz.—Frederick Wm Mackenzie, M.D.; Joseph Gouge Greenwood, B.A.; and Charles James Hargreave, B.L., Professor of Jurisprudence.

SCHOOL OF DESIGN.—The third annual meeting of the Spitalfields branch of the Government School of Design was held on Wednesday, at Crosby hall, Bishopsgate street; the Marquis of Normanby in the chair. The report represented that branch of the School of Design to be in a most flourishing condition: the attendance of pupils amounted in April to 238—an increase of 122 on the preceding year; and it was become necessary to provide additional accommodation. Mr Graham, a silk manufacturer, stated that the trade had already derived considerable advantage from the establishment of the School of Design. Prizes were awarded to the most skilful of the pupils, and also to those who had distinguished themselves by the regularity of their attendance and good conduct.

THE NEW HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT.—SELECTION OF ARTISTS.—The following six gentlemen, who were the successful competitors at the exhibition at Westminster hall, have been selected by the commissioners of fine arts, to execute works on given subjects, for the decoration of the new houses of parliament:—Charles West Cope, Hyde Park gate, Kensington Gore; John Calcott Horsley, 1, High row, Kensington Gravel Pits; William Dyce; Daniel Maclise; Richard Belgrave; William Cave Thomas. It is understood that the commission to each artist will be to execute a cartoon upon a given subject, to be afterwards transferred to fresco in the usual manner for the decoration of the interior of the House of Lords. The six subjects are, it is supposed, intended to fill the six panels forming the interior of that apartment. The following are the instructions given to the artist in a circular from her Majesty's commissioners:—

"You are requested to prepare a cartoon, being a design for one of the aforesaid subjects. The size of the cartoon is to be nine feet three inches wide, by sixteen feet high to the point of the arch, and ten feet three inches high to the springing of the arch (outlines in lithography, showing the form of the arch in the compartments referred to, may be obtained in the architect's office, in New Palace yard. You are further required to prepare a coloured sketch, not less than eighteen inches in its shortest dimensions, of the entire design represented in your cartoon, and a specimen of fresco painting, not less than three feet in its shortest dimension, representing a part of the design in the full proportion.

"You are requested to send in such cartoon, coloured sketch, and specimen of fresco painting, during the first week in June 1845, for exhibition, to Westminster hall.

"You are to be remunerated for the works aforesaid with the sum of £400; but the commissioners do not bind themselves to employ you finally on the fresco paintings in the House of Lords.

"I have further to acquaint you that the six subjects are distributed among the six artists as follows:—

"The subject of Religion is given to Mr Horsley.
"The subject of Justice is given to Mr Thomas.
"The subject of Chivalry is given to Mr Maclise.
"The subject of the Baptism of Ethelbert is given to Mr Dyce.

"The subject of Prince Henry, afterwards Henry V., acknowledging the authority of Chief Justice Gascoigne, is given to Mr Redgrave.

"The subject of Edward the Black Prince receiving the Order of the Garter from Edward III. is given to Mr Cope."

It appears from the last paragraph of this letter, that a general competition is invited, and as an encouragement to artists who have not been selected, the commissioners offer three premiums of £200 each for the best subjects produced. Thus another exhibition, doubtless far exceeding in interest either of those already opened, will take place in the summer of next year.

The ground between the eastern front and the rear of the houses in Finch lane, Cornhill, is being built upon, by direction of the trustees of Magdalen college, to whom the property belongs. There will be a line of houses from Cornhill to Threadneedle street, for which purpose the church of St Benet Fink will be pulled down.

THE NEW ROYAL EXCHANGE.—This noble edifice is rapidly approaching completion, and at present no obstacle is apprehended that will delay its being opened beyond the early part of September. The Graham committee have not as yet appointed the day, although preparations are going on to celebrate the event, so as to render the ceremony of an imposing and interesting character, it being clearly understood that her Majesty, accompanied by her august consort, will honour the city of London by opening it in person. The exact arrangements have not been as yet determined; it is, however, known that a grand banquet will be served in a spacious pavilion erected in the area, and that the whole proceedings will be conducted in an unusual degree of splendour, well becoming the opening of certainly the finest commercial building in the country.

A SPECIMEN OF AFRICAN ENTERPRISE.—A West Indian man.—Considerable curiosity was excited on Tuesday, at the St Katherine's Docks, in consequence of the arrival of a vessel from Bermuda, of only 41 tons' burden, manned entirely by men of colour, and having a cargo consisting almost entirely of arrow-root, which has accomplished the voyage in the incredibly short space of 31 days. This Lilliputian vessel has only one mast, her sides are not more than 12 to 15 inches from the deck, having a hand-rail raised above them of about the same

height; the stern is quite even with the deck, open and unprotected; and altogether she has more the appearance of a yacht, than a vessel capable of performing a voyage across the Atlantic. Though so small, she is evidently of great strength, and has not a vestige of paint or ornament about her.—*The Times*, June 20.—We have been informed that the above-mentioned vessel has been entirely built, manned, and equipped by emancipated negroes—that they were the sole growers and shippers of the cargo, and that their capital alone has been embarked in the speculation. May we not reasonably hope for a wide extension of this enterprising spirit, when transplanted to the still more important land of their fathers, and look forward to docks and quays crowded with the native products and vessels belonging to the farmers and merchants of Africa?—*The Friend of the Africans*.

SUPPRESSION OF HOUSES OF ILL-FAME IN THE PARISH OF ST GEORGE, HANOVER-SQUARE.—A committee of the noblemen, gentlemen, and respectable inhabitants, residing in the immediate neighbourhood of that notoriously infamous locality, Shepherd-street, Oxford-street, was some time since formed, for the purpose of the suppression of various houses of ill-fame in that street; and, finding all other means ineffectual, prosecutions were had, at the instance of the committee, against the keepers of the said houses; and at the Westminster Sessions, held on Friday last, the whole of the defendants pleaded guilty, and were held in sufficient bail to be called up for judgment, provided the nuisances complained of were not forthwith abated. We understand that the houses in question are being rapidly vacated by their respective occupiers, so that there is every probability that this long-notorious street, this Augean stable, will at length be cleansed from its manifold impurities.—*Post*.

MORTALITY IN LONDON.—The total number of deaths in the metropolis for the week ending last Saturday, as made up by the Registrar-General, was 871. The weekly average for the last five years has been 900.

Postscript.

Wednesday, July 17th, 1844.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The House met at twelve o'clock, and in committee got through fifty clauses of the Metropolis Improvement bill. Its object, as stated by Lord Lincoln, is the prevention of faulty construction in buildings, and the promotion of the public health. Mr Hawes disapproved of the bill as injurious to the trade of London, and as vesting a large patronage in the hands of ministers. His opposition was, however, ineffectual.

THE SLAVE TRADE.

On re-assembling at five o'clock, the House was occupied by a motion for papers relative to the slave trade, from Lord Palmerston. The noble lord took the opportunity of going largely into the question with the view of bringing it more prominently under public attention. His speech was a splendid specimen of eloquence. He commenced by describing, in vivid language, the horrors of slavery—the seizure in Africa, the middle passage, and the subsequent treatment.

A third of the negroes were found, upon an average of one ship with another, to perish on the voyage. It was the duty of the British government to extinguish these atrocities. Treaties had been made, whereby much had been accomplished. Between France and England mutual sacrifices had been made in the concession of the right of maritime visitation. England, in return for the services rendered by her to Spain, had obtained a treaty from that country. With respect to Portugal, powers had been obtained which were equivalent to the articles of a treaty. The effect of these various arrangements with the European states had been a great diminution in the numbers of negroes transferred from Africa to the plantations of America.

This was the work of the late government. The present administration had rather retrograded on the subject; witness their treaty with the United States. He hoped France and England would unite in endeavouring to exert a salutary influence over Brazil. Lord Palmerston, under cover of this question, launched forth into an ingenious exposure of the weakness and difficulties of government, such as those with which, at the close of the last session or two, he has been accustomed to wind up his opposition. If their peculiar position prevented them from granting freedom of commerce, from working out catholic emancipation, from promoting national education, and from maintaining the independence of this country in relation to European states, it was still open to them to abolish the slave trade; in that work they would be impeded by none of their supporters and thwarted by none of their opponents.

Sir R. Peel, after some well-applied observations on the terms of Lord Palmerston's motion, applied himself to the general question:—

Two nations only were now opposed to the complete abolition of that trade—Spain and Brazil. If they would sincerely join for its suppression, the object would be accomplished: without their aid, it was almost impossible wholly to attain it. He charged those two governments, therefore, with the whole responsibility of the still continuing guilt. He would adjure them by the highest motives; but, if those should be insufficient, he would warn them of the precarious tenure by which their power was now held, and of the proved resolve of the whole negro population to relieve themselves from their state of slavery.

He vindicated at much length the policy of the present government in relation to slavery. He justified the policy of blockading the African coast, by reference to the opinions of officers who had served on that station, confirmed by the deliberate judgment and high authority of Sir George Cockburn. But,

he did not propose a total discontinuance of the force now employed to watch the Brazilian coast. Sir R. Peel concluded with replying *seriatim* to Lord Palmerston's political charges, prefacing his defence with the following sarcastic remark:—

The noble lord appeared to have now made his motion, of which he had given notice last March, mainly for the sake of his peroration; he, of course, could not suffer such a gem to remain in obscurity. He could not take it with him into the country; if he had done that, he would have been repeating the speech to himself all the autumn, as he must already have been doing all the last month.

After some unimportant conversation, and Lord Palmerston's reply, the returns moved for were ordered.

Mr Hume proposed a motion for an address to the Crown, for a commission of inquiry into the past and present state of our tidal harbours, upon which he entered into considerable details. Sir R. Peel, after acknowledging the importance of the subject, acceded to the motion, which was agreed to by the House.

THE HOUSE OF LORDS was chiefly occupied last night with the case of Mr A. O'Driscoll, the Irish magistrate who had been superseded for grossly inhuman conduct, and was lately restored by the Irish Chancellor. Earl Fortescue moved for papers on the subject, and Lord Wharncliffe defended the act on the ground that the Lord Chancellor had 3,000 sureties for his good behaviour, so many persons of all ranks and of both parties having signed a memorial in his behalf. The Marquis of Normandy knew too well how such memorials were got up to attach much importance to them.

A long conversation ensued, in which the Marquis of Clanricarde and Lord Campbell sided with Lord Fortescue, Lords Glengall and Mountcashell endeavoured to exculpate Mr O'Driscoll, and the Lord Chancellor defended his friend Sir E. Sugden. The motion was ultimately agreed to.

THE REGISTRATIONS.

The following portion of the report of Monday's proceedings of the Council of the National Complete Suffrage Union, of Birmingham, reached us too late to appear in its proper place.

Mr STURGE said:—The events of the past week had very forcibly shown the necessity of directing their whole energies during the present week to the state of the registrations. He was glad to hear that the working-men were making vigorous efforts to put all the four shillings a-week householders on the roll, and he would suggest that the Council should afford them every facility to accomplish this work.

Mr MORGAN was glad to say that the working-men were quite alive to the importance of availing themselves of the advantages which had arisen from the decision in the Court of Common Pleas, in favour of four shillings a-week householders. He had announced on Monday, to a meeting in that room, that he was quite ready to give them all the assistance in his power, in the way of filling up their claims; and he would suggest that an announcement be made to the effect, that attendance would be given at the Suffrage Rooms, where every information would be obtained.

The Council unanimously approved of the suggestion, and the Secretary said he would be prepared to devote himself to the work during the week.

The Council then adjourned.

THE BIRMINGHAM REGISTRATIONS.—About a thousand claims have already been prepared by the Working Men's Committee in Birmingham, and will be put on the parliamentary registration list, under the four shillings a-week rent decision, before the 20th of August. This will be a Roland for the whigs' Oliver.

THE BIRMINGHAM ELECTION.—At a special meeting of the Committee of the Leicester Complete Suffrage Association, on Monday evening, Mr John Collier (town councillor) in the chair, it was unanimously resolved:—

"That this committee, holding the political enfranchisement of the people to be at once their inherent right, and essential to their permanent prosperity, are deeply convinced that neither such enfranchisement, nor any other substantial reform, will be obtained so long as their advocates give way at elections, either to whigs, the avowed opponents of popular rights, or to whig-radicals, who professedly desire the extension of those rights, but are ever ready to sacrifice them to mere party ends.

"That this committee, therefore, view, with high satisfaction, the noble stand made at Birmingham on behalf of great principles, by Mr Sturge and his friends; and, undismayed by any temporary augmentation of tory power, which will be justly attributable to whig-radical abandonment of the people, and not to democratic consistency, they unhesitatingly recommend the same course to the complete suffragists of Leicester and other towns."

CHURCH RATES.—PARISH OF ST MARY, NEWINGTON.—Yesterday, the poll demanded by the church-rate party, at a meeting held on the 28th of June (the particulars of which have already appeared in the *Nonconformist*), was opened at nine o'clock in the morning, and closed for the day at five in the afternoon. The poll, however, will not finally close until five this day (Wednesday), when the matter, which has thrown the parish for the last six weeks into a state of the greatest excitement, will be settled. Churchwarden Browne announced the numbers on the day's poll to be, for the rate, 605; against it, 379.

W. Callier Marshall, John Bell, and John Henry Foley, all of whom have works in the exhibition at Westminster hall, have been appointed by the Commissioners of Fine Arts to execute designs in sculpture for the new houses of parliament; not, however, to the exclusion of other artists.

DR WOLFF.—Letters from Trebizond, to the 24th of June, announce that intelligence had been received there of the safe arrival at Bokhara of this intrepid traveler, who had had a very kind reception from the Bokharees. No mention is made of the success or non-success of his mission.

PAUPER CHILDREN.—From a parliamentary return, it appears that the total number of children removed from union workhouses (in England only) into the army, amounts to 132, and the total number of them removed into the navy, to 139; making altogether 271. Of these children, 137 were from 10 to 15, and 134 from 15 to 20 years.

WEST INDIA PINES.—3,000 of this fruit, imported from the Bahama islands, and in good condition, were exposed for sale on Monday, and realised from 2s. to 6s. each. There was a brisk competition from fruit salesmen from all parts of the metropolis. A further supply of 12,000 pine apples has arrived. Arrangements have been made for a periodical annual supply from these islands, and three or four shipments are expected the present season.

On Monday, the 1st inst., a shoal of 179 whales was captured in the harbour of Stornoway, Ross-shire. The novelty and grandeur of the spectacle attracted a vast concourse of people to the scene of action, where the crews of the different boats were waging war with these powerful inhabitants of the deep—some with lances, others with swords, hatchets, &c., until the sea was coloured with their blood, and covered with foam by the tremendous splashing of their tails. The whole were sold next day for £483 for the benefit of the captors.

THE IRISH STATE PRISONERS.—A gymnasium, it is said, is in course of construction, for the better development of the thews and sinews of the seven gentlemen at present suffering temporary incarceration in the Richmond bridewell, whilst each day witnesses fresh arrivals of books and other articles calculated to cheer the gloom of the prison. From all this it would appear that no great reliance is placed upon the success of the *dernier ressort*.

REPEAL ASSOCIATION.—The meeting of the Association, on Monday, was crowded as usual. Mr James Kelly, the newly-elected Roman catholic and repeal member for Limerick, was called to the chair, and addressed the meeting at some length. After some unimportant business, Mr Daniel O'Connell said he had news to communicate which he was sure would afflict them all. It was, that Lord de Grey purposed leaving their shores to-morrow, and he trusted for ever, carrying with him, not the hatred, but the contempt of the entire Irish people [cheers]. His declaration of war against the repeal button was looked upon more in sorrow than in anger; but it appeared that his renunciation had been acted upon in other places beside the castle and the barracks. The commissioners of education had determined to exclude from the national schools every boy that exhibited a repeal button. He protested against such partisan conduct, and would at the same time deny that the repeal button was a party badge—the repealers were not a party, they were the people [cheers]. His father's advice, however, was, that the young blood of Ireland should not lose the benefits of education for such a trifling cause. Let them, therefore, not expose the button, but keep it in their pockets, which would answer the purpose equally well [hear, hear]. He would now proceed to make his usual weekly report from the prison. The state prisoners were, he was most happy to say, in the enjoyment of excellent health and spirits, and his father was delighted at the perseverance and peaceable conduct of the people. By perseverance alone could they expect to obtain the object of their fondest hopes—the repeal of the legislative union [loud cheers]. He concluded by saying that his father had scarcely any hope that the writ of error would be decided in his favour, and he was glad it was so, because it would show them the necessity of depending on themselves. Mr H. Grattan, M.P., and Mr Roche, M.P., addressed the meeting at great length on a variety of topics. The amount of subscriptions announced up to post hour was £1,700.

DEPARTURE OF LORD DE GREY.—The Lord-lieutenant and the Countess de Grey held an undress levee at Dublin castle, on Monday, for the reception of those desirous of paying their respects previous to the departure of their excellencies. The levee commenced at one o'clock, and for nearly an hour visitors continued to arrive. An address, numerously signed by the nobility and gentry, was afterwards presented to the Lord-lieutenant.

THE GOVERNOR OF INDIA.—Sir H. Hardinge and his suite arrived in Alexandria by the Geyser, on the 22nd. The Governor of India was received in the most cordial manner by the Pacha, who loaded him with honours and civilities both public and private. After remaining in Alexandria for two days, Sir Henry proceeded to Cairo on the 25th, on his way to India.

GREECE.—The accounts from Athens of the 30th ult. describe Greece as on the eve of becoming again the theatre of party strife. A few days previously some rioting took place in that capital. Cries of "Down with the Ministry!" and "Vive the Constitution!" were vociferated under the King's windows, and Callergis was obliged to order a body of cavalry to disperse the mob. Several persons were wounded in the affray, two of whom subsequently died. The elections were nearly over in the provinces, and had passed off quietly, except in Messenia, where five individuals lost their lives.

CORN MARKET. MARK LANE. THIS DAY.

	Wheat	Barley	Oats	Beans	Peas	Flour.
English ..	2580	..	1110			
Scotch						
Irish			15470			
Foreign ..	3780	2450				

The market is dull, and prices, if anything, are a trifle lower than on Monday.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"F.B." It is well the world has not always been of his opinion, otherwise his position would not have been what it is.

"Peter." We have no room for wood-pavement.

"Noncon." We are obliged to him, but cannot avail ourselves of his communication.

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The Nonconformist.

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 1844.

SUMMARY.

THE people's representatives have at length commenced legislation in the true spirit of humanity, and have appointed a select committee to inquire into a subject involving the interests of a large class of—dogs. Nay, we joke not! The matter is too serious for pleasantry. Several lap dogs and poodles, it seems, have of late disappeared under circumstances involving the deepest mystery. The House of Commons, always anxious to rectify what is wrong, to clear up what is doubtful, and to protect the unprotected, has deemed it not beneath its dignity to devolve upon a definite number of its members the solemn task of inquiring into the matter. They have sympathy with dogs. They never shut them up in union work-houses, nor set over them commissioners, whose object it is to ascertain by experiment upon how meagre a diet human beings can subsist. The dog committee will doubtless disclose important information in their report, which, however, in harmony with the theme of their inquiry, we hope they will endeavour as much as possible to curtail. What witnesses are to be examined, it is not competent for us to say. Some puppies, we have no doubt, will give evidence; but if many members of the canine fraternity are to undergo the cross-questioning of the committee, an interpreter must be employed, and we venture to recommend Col. Sibthorp, as being himself hirsute and apparently quite conversant with the language of curs. No man better understands a short growl, and, as he is a decided enemy to railways, in the passenger carriages of which dogs are not permitted to enter, he may be supposed to have peculiar sympathies for that race. Indeed, but for his dress, he might be mistaken for a wire-haired terrier.

Mr Cowper, at the far end of the session, has introduced a Field Gardens bill, the provisions of which go to construct an extensive, complicated, and despotic machinery, the construction of which would of course create some patronage, and the operation of which would as certainly be found impracticable. The bill has been read a second time, not because the House is anxious to pass it, but simply forasmuch as there is not the slightest danger of its getting through this session. Thus Mr Cowper is gratified, and no harm is done, beyond a waste of time, paper, and print.

Saturday and morning sessions have commenced—a sure sign that the close of parliamentary business is not far off. The Railways bill has been under discussion, and the debate, which terminated in a large majority for the second reading, would lead us to infer, if we can take a minister's word for a sufficient guarantee, that it is not intended to be applied save in *terrorem*. The fit of centralisation is strong upon our senators at the present time. We regret to see that some of the best friends of the people have caught the malady; but as we have dealt with the subject in a separate article, it may suffice to observe here, that the strongest argument in favour of the bill is that it is not meant to accomplish that for the accomplishment of which it ostensibly provides.

Poor law discussions again! but as the *Times* aptly enough remarks:—"While everything at Westminster is inactive and lags, and a bill is passing through quietly, because members do not care enough about it to make any stir in the matter, down in the country, as our correspondent's letter shows, the most deep, cutting, and gnawing hatred of the poor law has penetrated into the minds of the poorer classes, and has eaten into their very core. This deep feeling wants a deep remedy, far deeper than such a tame bill as the present one affords." The Amendment bill is now passing through committee. In some respects it is an amelioration of the existing system—in all important ones it will be merely a chip in the porridge. Sir James Graham, we believe, is still hankering after his scheme of national education, and in this bill has forced in the narrow end of the wedge. On Monday, Mr Wyse brought forward his motion respecting the state trials and the state prisoners. The debate

was short, and distinguished by little novelty. The House was thin, and a division having been called for much earlier than had been expected, ministers obtained a majority of only eighteen. Whilst on this subject, we may mention the rumour which has reached us—that the judgment of the Court of Queen's Bench in Ireland is likely to be sustained in all its material points by the House of Lords. As the decision will probably be given some time during the present week, we shall abstain from hazarding a conjecture, and comment upon insufficient data would be out of place.

The doings of the House of Lords may be dispatched in few words. The amendments of the Commons on the Dissenters' Chapels bill have been agreed to; not, however, without encountering the strenuous but fruitless opposition of the Bishop of London. The Bank Charter bill has been through committee. The Brothels Suppression bill has been dropped by the Bishop of Exeter upon the mere intimation of the Duke of Wellington that he was opposed to it. Upon this the *Examiner* makes the following pertinent remarks:—

"We have stated that between his speech introducing his Brothels bill, and the Duke of Wellington's expression of disapproval, nothing in the case was changed, nothing new discovered; but, on consideration, we feel that this is not quite the fact.

"It has been discovered and boldly proclaimed by Lord Fitzhardinge that the dean and chapter of Westminster were much concerned in the proposed legislation, inasmuch as some of the penalties might fall on them; and as dog does not eat dog, nor hawk pick out hawk's eyes, the Bishop of Exeter may have felt it unbrotherly to proceed with his measure.

"He had shot his arrows o'er the Westminster chapter houses, without knowing how sharply they would light on the brotherhood there: but apprised of what he was doing, he seized the first pretext for breaking his shafts. Such may be the solution of the sudden abandonment of an object so hotly undertaken.

"To one of the two respectable motives we have touched on it must be referable—abject sycophancy to the Duke of Wellington, or a too tender and partial regard to the concernment of the dean and chapter of Westminster in the nuisances in question."

The course pursued by the government with regard to the bill for separating the sees of Bangor and St Asaph elicited an outpouring of episcopal wrath from Salisbury, whereat the *Times* seems to be mightily pleased.

We have no outdoor intelligence requiring specific notice but the Birmingham election. The state of the poll at the close stood thus:—Spooner, 2,095; Scholefield, 1,735; Sturge, 346. We have given in another column our remarks upon this result. Of course the whig journals are loud in their denunciations of Mr Sturge, for contesting the borough without the smallest prospect of success. We believe that Mr Sturge did right, even had his prospects been no more flattering than his success. But it so happens that, even upon the principles of his opponents, the number of promises he had received justified his going to the poll. The desire of some to keep out a whig, and of a far larger number to keep out a tory, overcame their good faith. Their habits, as we have observed elsewhere, got the mastery of their opinions. Theirs, consequently, is the blame of this defeat. The contest, however, will not be without its use. Upwards of twelve months ago, we gave it as our deliberate opinion, together with our reasons for entertaining it, that the complete suffrage party must dare to lose before they can put themselves into a position to win.

THE GROWING TORYISM OF THE ELECTORAL CLASS.

THE issue of the Birmingham election will start many an exclamation of surprise. The very citadel of radicalism has opened its gates to a tory—and this, not in consequence of a division within its walls; for even the united forces of reformers would not have sufficed to keep out the foe. Mr Spooner polled more votes than both the other candidates put together; and Mr Scholefield received the suffrages of five times as many electors as Mr Sturge. The field of conflict was the headquarters of the complete suffrage movement—a field upon which the municipal constituency has returned a majority of the avowed adherents of that cause. Eight thousand inhabitants of Birmingham had but a few days before enthusiastically invited Mr Sturge to stand—three hundred and forty-six electors only, recorded their votes in his favour. We shall not imitate the folly which we condemn, and represent that as a moral triumph which in reality is a sore defeat. We confess we were unprepared for precisely this result. Nor shall we draw upon local or incidental circumstances with a view to furnish an explanation of what is, on the face of it, sufficiently plain. We think it the wiser course, and by far the more manly, to look the evil in the face—to scrutinise well its features—to estimate aright our position—to make a more exact knowledge the basis of more nicely-calculated measures—and to convert present mortification into a ledge whereby to step to higher and firmer ground.

The Birmingham contest has laid bare to view a fact which long since might be reasonably guessed at—that our popular constituencies, to

describe them in current phraseology, are rapidly becoming as unsound as the rest of the representative system. The taint is spreading. The leprosy, which a few years ago showed itself in small spots only upon the extremities, is now too surely pushing its way over the whole body. Subserviency to the will of the opulent and the exalted classes is no longer confined to small boroughs and to immediate dependents. The spirit of conservatism is eating into the heart of the ten-pound householders. Taxation cannot crush it out of them. Free trade cannot exorcise the demon. Religious liberty has no power over it. Organic reform provokes only its derision. It is strong where liberal opinions indisputably predominate. It affects dissent as surely as state-churchism. It needs not now the aid of bribery. It can afford to be good-humoured in its contests. But there it is, having at length established its home in that section of the community upon whom we have conferred exclusive political power. The monopolists in legislation, like all other monopolists, are gradually sinking under the dominion of class influences—having views, feelings, preferences, interests, principles, peculiarly and appropriately their own. Everywhere they are degenerating into a clique; and at each succeeding election the interval between them and the great bulk of society is made wider.

We have small confidence, at least for the present, in the ameliorating influence of political knowledge upon this now isolated class. Their habits have at length got the mastery over their opinions. That deviation from electoral rectitude which cost, in the first instance, many a pang of remorse, has now become familiar—and the patronage of an aristocrat, or the solicitation of a customer, has come to have more weight than the foresight of the most tremendous political consequences. He who once makes himself a slave, ceases thenceforth to value independence. It is in the political as it is in the moral world—custom in wrong makes light of all convictions. The drunkard knows his doom—despises himself for his folly—watches step by step the indications of his failing constitution—and goes deliberately to his cups. The elector of easy virtue needs not be told the difference between justice and injustice. He has no predilections for taxation. He sees clearly enough around him the proofs of a drooping commerce—the signs of an impoverished people. He can trace these mischiefs to the selfishness of faction—but to please this man, or to show his superiority over that, he will give faction his vote with most implicit readiness. The respectability of a thing in the eye of the world is all that he requires, as the condition of the support he gives it. The rights of citizenship constitute part of his stock in trade. He must turn them to account. He may not take money for them—but, in one way or another, he will have money's worth. Present convenience is put into the scale against remoter but more general good—and present convenience rules the decision. Such is the certain result of monopoly, however wide its circle. Irresponsible power can only be trusted to protect itself.

Shall we give way, therefore, to despondency? Not at all. Shall we cease our exertions for the diffusion of sound political knowledge? No. If confirmed habit be against us, it is not the less, but the more, needful to have opinion with us. In the political world as in the physical, sudden floods will occasionally occur, which break down, in their impetuous rush, the strongest barriers of habit, and bear away all the landmarks of conventionalism. We must wait for such, but we must also be prepared. It is astonishing how, at these seasons, the merely artificial gives place to the natural; and the notions which have been but as the empty ditches of the national mind, become the channels along which the full tide of enthusiasm pours itself. Unforeseen contingencies may pleasingly disappoint all our fears—some talismanic event may whisper in the ear of a sleeping country, and bid it start up to resolute activity. How fitting is it that, at such a juncture, it should not be obliged to ask what it were best to do! How important that its convictions should be ready to lead forward the forces of its will! The reform struggle was an eventual failure, because the people had not yet learned to put more faith in principle than in party. Let us see to it, by a manly perseverance in duty, that the next opportunity be not similarly thrown away. We must work and wait.

THE RAILWAYS BILL.

RAILWAYS—the chosen objects of Colonel Sibthorp's especial hatred and contempt—constitute one of the "great facts" of the present age. Beyond all the political agencies which are now at work, they will modify the spirit of the times. Practically, they add a new term to the existence of each generation, and condense within the same period of years, a larger amount of life. To some considerable extent, they annihilate space, and remove the natural barriers which once existed to general intercommunication. The press transmits and

diffuses over the whole surface of society the living energy of thought—the penny post serves as a conductor of volition and affection—railways put being in contact with being, and knit together the extremities of the empire. Within a little, they will give to the entire country all the advantages of a central metropolis, without its inconveniences either to health, to morals, or to enjoyment. They will make of Great Britain one city with its suburbs—leaving us still in possession of air and sunshine, mountain and lake, morning freshness and evening serenity, the rich verdure of a well-cultivated garden, and the solitude and wild grandeur of a far-off wilderness. Railways put the advantages of life into an epitome—and, like an apothegm, or proverb, bring within the reach of all, what previously, in consequence of the difficulty of acquisition, was enjoyed only by the few. They tend to reduce the scattered elements of social happiness to a portable essence—a single drop of which may be obtained with comparative ease, and which, when obtained, gives to the cup of the poor a relish of pleasures once monopolised by the great. The scrawled and scarcely decipherable letter of the wandering haymaker is now sped to the home of those he has left behind him, with threefold the despatch which kings could once command. The artisan is whirled through space at the same rate as the starred and ribboned lord. Art and science stand cap in hand, ready to do the beck of the one even as of the other. That punctuality, that admirable order, that minute subdivision of labour, that wonderful transaction of a world of business without noise or bustle, which may be seen at every leading railway station—they serve the lowest among mortals as well as the highest. Railways are your true radical reformers. There are no levelers like them.

Is it desirable to put railways into the hands of government? By the answer to this question, must we judge of the expediency of the railway bill. Sir Robert Peel may deal out plausibilities as he lists—and Mr Gladstone may assert, or even prove, the purity of his motives—but as surely as power is conferred upon the ruling class to take this species of property into their own keeping, so surely will it eventually be exercised. They who expect it to lie dormant, or to be held up only in *terrorem*, to coerce monopoly into a due consideration of the helpless poor, must have read history to little profit. We regret to see men, whose benevolence it is impossible for us to suspect, supporting this bill with a view to the benefit of the labouring classes. We marvel what has become of their judgment. Is government so very careful of the poor? How long after the means of locomotion are in the hands of the state, will the interests of the masses be considered? Who does not know that the one object of government is power? That once obtained, who looks for its being exerted with a view to the elevation and comfort of the indigent? By granting this bill, you obtain for the working man a somewhat cheaper fare, at the cost of putting him more completely in the power of his oppressors than he is at present. Suppose a national excitement similar to the Reform bill enthusiasm. This bill will eventually enable the state to paralyse circulation. In a moment England may be reduced to the position of a country without roads for the population, but with ample means of rapid transit for troops. The suspension of *habeas corpus* would be a flea-bite in comparison. What might not the aristocracy venture upon with this last resort in their hands? What would they not venture upon?

Protection against monopoly is, doubtless, desirable—but let us be sure that it is protection. The transference of property from shareholders to government—would it not leave us, as now, at the mercy of the few?—and that without the possibility of applying the check of competition? In the long run, under the present system, it will be found that cheap fares, comfortable carriages, and unremitting attention, secure the highest profits; and that to induce traveling is the soundest policy of directors. Or, should some overgrown company become rampant, it will be easily reduced to submission by opening another line. The process, indeed, is already going on—and all the laws of social progression guarantee further improvement. But what if railroads fall under the sole control of government? Is the courtesy of public servants so striking as to make us wish for the change? Are men in office so prompt to avail themselves of newly-discovered methods, that we should sigh to place locomotion under a board of commissioners? What is our experience in other departments? Take the Post office for example. How charmingly obliging are the authorities there! How anxious to adopt improvements! What a readiness to make sacrifices for the people's welfare! Is this the kind of management which we wish to see extended to railways? Have we not enough men in place? Must we have another army of *attachés*? Would we put another whole class, and that a numerous one, under the thumb of the class in power, to be led out hereafter, as one man, from chairman of the board to the meanest porter on the platform, to vote against the liberties of the subject? What! Is there

not already patronage enough at the disposal of our rulers? Is not the number of men bribed by office into co-operation with the foes of popular freedom already sufficiently large to answer all our wishes? Some of the gentlemen who are now supporting this bill would do well to answer these questions satisfactorily to themselves—otherwise they may discover that, whilst they have been penny-wise, they have also been pound-foolish.

A MARCH BY STEALTH.

SIR JAMES GRAHAM, defeated last year in his plan of government education, has not foregone his object, but has changed his tactics. He approaches his point stealthily, and by zig-zag marches—and, as might have been anticipated, he carries with him all parties in the House of Commons. The Poor Law Amendment bill creates a new machinery for the education of paupers—a machinery, however, which is capable of being applied only in large towns—our rural population, we suppose, being above the need of assistance in this matter. The cautious mode of proceeding adopted by the Home Secretary, betrayed his solicitude to cover his real intentions. First of all, provision is made for the formation of district schools, securing ample powers to the Poor Law Commissioners to inspect and regulate them. Then, it oozes out that these schools are not intended for the rural districts. At length it appears, that the children of the recipients of outdoor relief are “to enjoy the benefits of this clause,” at least during the term of their dependence on the parish—and, lastly, an amendment is given notice of by Sir James Graham himself, in these words, “That every district-board, acting for each such educational district, shall appoint, with the consent of the bishop of the diocese, at least one chaplain, being a clergyman of the established church, as a salaried officer, to superintend the education of the children in such school.” Mr S. O'Brien, a sort of pilot-balloon for the cabinet, intimated his anxiety to make this education available for the children of poor persons who did not receive parochial relief, and was informed by the Home Secretary that he would have an opportunity of raising that question on clause 45.

To us, we confess, these proceedings wear an air of suspicion. We see herein, a renewed attempt to hand over to the state-priesthood the nascent mind of our town population, and to multiply those ecclesiastical sentinels whom the state employs to guard the poor from the perils of independent thinking. By hook or by crook, the government is resolved upon moulding the popular mind to its own ideas of what that mind should be. As to the knowledge to be communicated at these schools, we have seen enough to make us cautious of over-estimating its amount—but we have no doubt that the habits into which the poor younglings will be trained, will be of the most satisfactory kind—to rulers and parsons. Be this as it may, here are the germs of a government system of education. These tiny seeds will grow—to what height will appear hereafter. We shall be able in a future number to give some account of what sort of fruit the system produces in Germany, derived from William Howitt's valuable and most timely little volume, intitled “*German Experiences*.” Meanwhile, we embrace the opportunity of presenting an apposite extract, which our readers will do well to ponder, and in the light of which they may examine the cant of parliamentary leaders on this subject:—

“But the worst of all remains behind. While the government education leaves the mind where it found it as to all real enlightenment and awakening, it does not neglect the power which it possesses to bend the young subject early to the yoke of passive obedience. This government influence operates through the whole system—its vigilant eye is always fixed upon it; every parish schoolmaster is under the surveillance of superiors and boards, whose converging lines all terminate in the bureau of an especial minister—the minister of an arbitrary and irresponsible king. So far is every schoolmaster from daring to teach any liberal opinions on any subject, he has his printed instructions from the royal cabinet to inculcate sedulously, and with all his power, reverence to royalty and implicit obedience to all its injunctions.”

German Experiences, &c. &c. Longman and Co.

PROVINCIAL.

BIRMINGHAM ELECTION.

THE NOMINATION.

The nomination of candidates took place at eleven o'clock on Friday morning at the Town hall. The doors were thrown open at the above hour, and in a short time the immense building was crammed in every part. The organ gallery was assigned to the friends of the three candidates, who filled the entire hustings.

The Mayor, in commencing the proceedings, said, they were all aware of the melancholy event which had deprived them of the services of their late representative—an upright man, who had served them for many years [cheers]. They were called upon to execute a very important trust. He should address them very shortly. If any difference of opinion should occur, he requested them to hear the various candidates proposed with patience and attention; and, during the whole election, he trusted they would

grant the same freedom to others which they claimed for themselves [cheers].

Mr W. MATTHEWS (alderman), rose to nominate Mr W. Scholefield. After passing an eulogy on the late member, and mentioning the fitness of his son to succeed him, Mr M. said, he did not accuse his friend, Mr Sturge, of any intention to injure the liberal cause; he believed him to be perfectly honest: but the fact was, his honesty did more mischief to the cause he professed to support than the intentional opposition of other parties [laughter and cheers]. He did not know anything of his (Mr Scholefield's) opinions [laughter]; but he cordially recommended him as a representative for the great and important town of Birmingham [cheers, groans, and cries of “No police, no bull-ring”].

Mr Alderman PHILLIPS came forward, he said, for the purpose of seconding the nomination of Mr Scholefield, and very much regretted that some other person more competent to the task had not been requested to undertake it. They were then, unfortunately, with three candidates in the field [cries of “No, no, only two; withdraw Scholefield”]. They had two on one side and one on the other. He knew that there was no man who was more honestly devoted to the liberties of the people than Mr Sturge. He knew there was no man more honest, more upright and firm in his purpose, and a free trader in the bargain. All that he knew—why, then, did he oppose him, and why not support him? Because he firmly believed Mr Sturge had no chance of winning [uproar, and cries of “No, no, he has”]. If he (Mr Alderman Phillips) thought that Mr Sturge could have been returned, he would not have come forward to support Mr Scholefield. But it had been ascertained that if Mr Scholefield did not stand, and that if Mr Sturge stood alone against Mr Spooner, he could not have been returned. But, as he had said before, it had been found that Mr Sturge had no chance whatever [no, no]. What, however, was the difference between the two liberal candidates? He knew none. They were in his opinion both the same [“Why then don't you withdraw your man?”]. After thanking the meeting for the patience with which they had listened to him [laughter], Mr Ald. Phillips concluded by seconding the nomination of Mr W. Scholefield [cheers and groans].

Mr W. C. ALSTON then presented himself amidst great confusion, to nominate Mr Richard Spooner.

Mr WINFIELD, the high bailiff of Birmingham, seconded Mr Spooner's nomination.

Mr BARLOW, town councillor, came forward to propose as their representative Mr Joseph Sturge. He believed Mr Sturge to be a fit and proper person to represent them, and he believed they thought so too [cheers]. The speaker proceeded to ridicule the pretensions of Mr Scholefield. That gentleman, in his address, had spoken largely of his liberal views. He had stated that he would vote for an extension of the suffrage upon the principles of residence, age, and intelligence. Was there anything intelligible in such a declaration? What age; what amount of residence, or age; what amount of intelligence, was to give a qualification? Now, what was the fact? Mr Scholefield was the nominee of the Reform Club [hear, hear]; but the men of Birmingham were determined to have a member of their own [cheers]. It had been said that the friends of Mr Sturge had canvassed for the tory candidate: they repudiated all such connexion. They had no more regard for the tories than they had for the whigs [cheers]. They would go to the poll, and, more than that, they would keep it open until four o'clock [cheers]. The contest was one of principle, and he hoped it would be conducted with the most perfect good humour [cheers].

Mr BALDWIN, town councillor, in rising to second the nomination of Mr Sturge, said, the question they were called upon to decide was this—would they have an honest liberal, a shilly-shally whig, or an honest tory [cheers]? That was the question they were now called upon to settle [loud cheers]. He charged the whigs with causing the split upon the occasion. There was no doubt that, of the two, tories, as a party, were more honest than the whigs [cheers]. He advised them, however, to give their support to Mr Sturge—a truly honest and upright man—a man connected with no other party than that of their common country [cheers].

Mr GRACH then presented himself as the representative of Mr Scholefield. He stated, that Mr Scholefield would never have come forward if his friends thought that Mr Sturge could have been returned alone against a tory [loud groans]. He had only again to declare, that it was the perfect conviction which Mr Scholefield's friends entertained of the impossibility of Mr Sturge's success which induced them to bring his friend Mr Scholefield before the constituency. Upon the party who was the lowest upon the poll would rest the odium if a tory were returned.

RICHARD SPOONER, Esq., then presented himself amid considerable uproar; but obtained silence at the intercession of the mayor. He prefaced his general remarks by passing a high tribute of personal respect to the late member, Mr Scholefield. He then turned to Mr Sturge, and laying his hand upon that gentleman's shoulder, begged to congratulate him on the straightforwardness, honesty, and consistency of his position. He pronounced Mr Sturge's position to be that which could not be said of Mr Scholefield's, viz., consistent with the precepts of the whig party. He (Mr Spooner) recollected that it had been a maxim which his friends among the whigs had endeavoured to impress upon him on former occasions, that no person should stand as a candidate, who in the outset had not consulted and received the sanction of a majority of a town's meeting, composed of non-electors as well as electors. He, he need not tell them, had never entertained that doctrine, but his friends the

whigs had, and they were bound to abide by it [cheers and laughter]. His old friend, Mr Phipson, whom he saw present, had more than once told him this, and he was sure he would not eat his words.

MR PHIPSON.—Why don't you act upon that principle?

MR SPOONER said he never acknowledged the principle. He always repudiated it. Had he ever professed it he would have acted upon it [cheers]. The whigs proposed it, but they now dared not to act upon it [cheers]. Mr Spooner then proceeded to claim credit for having ever evinced, as a native and inhabitant of Birmingham, a patriotic regard for its best interests, and to challenge to the proof the previous speaker, who had questioned whether he possessed "a heart that could feel for the poor." He was aware that he was not acceptable to the great bulk of the persons before him, and he regretted it; but he knew that a large and respectable portion of his fellow-townsmen, the conservative party, desired to have him for their representative, and he conceived he had a perfect right, indeed that it was his duty to afford them the opportunity of returning him. Mr Spooner, in answer to various questions, proceeded to explain his principles. He was opposed to a repeal of the corn-laws, to an extension of the suffrage, to the abolition of church rates, and the new poor law. He would support the ten hours' factory bill, and the Birmingham views of currency. He concluded by congratulating the mayor on his high impartiality, and cordially thanking the meeting for their courtesy and patience, he requested that he might be submitted to any questioning his opponents thought proper to institute.

MR STURGE, upon rising, was most loudly cheered. He said he would first congratulate them upon the good temper and kind feeling with which they had thus far proceeded; and he hoped he should not disturb it by alluding to one or two circumstances. Now, as he had been so thickly bespattered—first, in the West Indies, by the slave-owners, then in America, and, lastly, in England, by the conservatives, he had become rather case-hardened, and would not be disconcerted by what were called electioneering squibs. He was one of those who thought that no one who was a Christian and a gentleman should forget the duties he owed to society; and, instead of having a libel law, he would have one that every man should put his name to everything he published. But, as the *Times* newspaper boasted of the accuracy of its intelligence from different parts of the kingdom, he felt bound to notice something in their correspondence article from Birmingham, which appeared yesterday morning ["It's a Jonathanism"]. The *Times* said:—"If Mr Sturge fulfils his promise—if he honestly, as he has declared he will do, gives every elector an opportunity of recording his vote—there can be no doubt as to the issue. But the fact cannot be concealed, that Mr Sturge has sometimes broken his word, and, after declaring his firm determination to go to the poll, has retired from the contest." Now, he had resided in Birmingham twenty years, and, although he was then surrounded by so many of his political opponents—and he trusted only political opponents, for he had never wilfully made an enemy in his life—he would challenge any one of them to come forward and say he had ever broken his word, either publicly or privately, with any of them. He then explained the circumstance to which the *Times* had referred—he had distinctly stated his intention to bow to the decision of a majority of his townsmen, and that being given against him, he withdrew from the contest. He then proceeded to notice and dispose of one or two other false statements which had been made respecting him during the election. He had many personal friends among the whigs, but speaking of them as a party—for he spoke of parties, and not of men—he would as soon have a straightforward, honest Tory, like his friend Richard Spooner, as a party who got into power on the backs of the people, and then turned round and went for finality [cheers]. His friend William Scholefield said, in his address, he would make the vote dependent upon intelligence, upon age, and upon residence. He did not say whether fifty years of age, seven years of residence, or whether a man should be master of Euclid or not, before he could enjoy this privilege. He (Mr Sturge) was bound to state facts, and here he would pay a tribute to their late friend, Joshua Scholefield, for, on looking over his votes, they were almost always recorded on the side of freedom. But he was against making this an hereditary borough. If he were to judge of William Scholefield by his acts, he certainly must say he was more of a conservative than his father. His father was favourable to the six points, but William Scholefield, the only two times he had attended the town council during the last two years, had voted against the rights of the people. They were told that the town council was not the place to introduce such subjects; but it was well known that, in the early history of the country, the corporations were the seats of freedom; and if he were not mistaken, there the battle would have to be fought yet. There was one thing of which he begged to acquaint the whigs, and that was of their not having broken any compact with him, in not giving him their support, for he did not know, until he saw in the public papers, of any understanding between the two committees, or he should have protested against it, for he believed that not only William Scholefield, but George Frederick Muntz, so far disagreed with him, that he could not record his vote for either of them. It had been said he was dividing the Liberal interest. He altogether disclaimed it, but he should like to know what Liberal interest meant. He appealed to those then present who were present in 1839, whether, when the voice of the meeting was said to be against him, he did not at once withdraw, and he would now do

so if he did not feel convinced he had the majority of the meeting with him. He did not wish to represent this town any longer than he had the sympathy and the confidence, not only of the electors but of the non-electors also. A deputation waited upon him to know if he would stand as a candidate for the representation of the borough. His reply was in substance this—that while there were many reasons why he should wish to decline, yet he held that the man, who was called upon by a majority of his fellow citizens to go to parliament, to defend their rights, and to make just laws for them, shrunk from an important duty, if he did not obey that call; and he was not sure if he did not morally forfeit his claim to good government; and therefore he said he would not come forward unless at a meeting fairly called, at which he had a majority of both electors and non-electors with him. With the exception of one hand held up in a joke on Monday last, the meeting was unanimous in his favour, and he counted that that man who went to the poll against the voice of such a meeting as last Monday's, forfeited his title to be the fair representative of the people [loud cheers]. He did not blame his friend Richard Spooner. They had been friends many years, and they should be friends as long as they lived. He [Mr Spooner] had acted consistently; but what was to be said of the man who said that they wished to give equal rights, and yet would not abide the decision of a public meeting? He was a perfect free-trader, and would place all persons upon the same footing; but at the same time he would recommend to the poor beer-shopkeepers, and to the others also, to get into a better trade as soon as they could. One of his friends who had spoken that day had laid it on rather too thick when he said that he [Mr Sturge] was one of the largest contributors to the Anti-corn-law League. He believed that some time ago, at an early period of the League's existence, he was the largest. The fact was, he had great difficulty to get them to go for immediate abolition, and he offered them £100 a year for three years to go upon that principle. The whigs came forward with a fixed duty, and though the League did not neglect their duty, a large number of its members did, and he therefore was induced to withdraw from it, for he saw he was getting into bad company. Upon the subject of education, he would remark, he felt very earnestly upon that point. He was for every kind of religious education to be voluntary. He could not think himself justified in taxing a Jew against his will for teaching his children Christianity. He was the uncompromising advocate of commercial and political freedom [cheers]. He held that as religion was a question between man and his Maker, no human authority had any right whatever to interfere with it so long as it did not endanger the peace and good order of society. He thought that no tax whatever ought to be compulsorily levied on any person to support a creed from which he conscientiously dissented. He held that there should be a complete and entire separation between the church and the state, and so far from agreeing with his friend Richard Spooner in not abolishing church rates and tithes, he believed that they were a gross violation of decency and conscience, and he rejoiced that he belonged to a profession which for 200 years had acted upon these principles, and had endured persecution for conscience sake. He was the friend of free trade all over the world, but he did not include under the name of legitimate commerce goods fraudulently obtained. If he had his way he would levy all taxes upon property. The taxes should be upon the property, and not upon the income of the country. He would abolish the custom houses, and he was perfectly satisfied that the rich would be benefited by such a measure. Such a measure would be but an act of justice not only to the rich, but especially to the poor and labouring classes. He was also as perfectly satisfied that it was one of the greatest means of promoting permanent and universal peace; and that our armies and navies would be perfectly unnecessary if we had perfect freedom of commerce, as he was that they were inconsistent with Christianity, and unnecessary burthens to the state. But these evils would not be got rid of till they removed the source from whence they sprung, viz., class legislation. He was one of those who contended that man's liberty and life was more dear than property; that man, and not property, should be the qualification to vote, and, therefore, that every man of twenty-one years of age, not deprived of his right by a verdict of a jury of his countrymen, should have a vote. He contended that these rights were not only demanded by Christian equity, but also by the British constitution, and, in support of the statement, he would quote an authority which he thought his conservative friends would not dispute—namely, Blackstone. Mr Sturge here read the passage, which was to the effect, that every man who paid taxes had a right to a vote; and proceeded to say, that the poor man's bread, sugar, coffee, tea, and leather, paid taxation to the country, and that the poor man, therefore, paid taxes as much as if he paid them directly to the exchequer. He contended also for the principle, that the poor man's penny was worth as much as the rich man's pound, and that the rich man's pound gave him sufficient power without his possessing any additional political advantages. He felt deeply sorry that the great principles (all of which, except the ballot, had been advocated by the Duke of Richmond sixty years ago) had fallen into disrepute by the conduct of some of their supporters; but you might as well charge Christianity with the horrors of the inquisition, with the opium wars in China, and the massacres in India, as charge those great principles with the indiscretion of some of their professing members. But he wished to be distinctly understood, that while he advocated those principles,

plea, he wished only for the aid of those who would pursue them in a peaceable and proper Christian manner [cheers]. On that point he knew he disagreed with many; but he openly stated that he would rather not have the assistance of those who overstepped the line. With respect to those who now suffered for political offences, he did not wish to judge harshly of the whigs, or to use the words offensively, but from the language they employed previously to obtaining office, he thought that when they were in power they might have shown more lenity to those who, in the madness of excitement, had done wrong. With regard to the poor law, his opinion was, that any law which was made, or might hereafter be made, which treated honest poverty as a crime, was a gross injustice; and justice, he contended, was before charity in the catalogue of Christian virtues; and if full justice were done to the people, the poor houses would speedily be empty. Well then, those who had any faith in Blackstone would see, that when they possess the franchise, they must take steps for its full, fair, and free exercise. The first of those steps he held to be the ballot; but if the question were brought forward before the House of Commons, he was not sure that he might not alter his opinion upon the subject; but even if he did so, he would come back to his constituents, and, if they desired it, throw back his trust into their hands. To make things equal, it might be said that Tamworth ought not to send so many members as Birmingham; therefore electoral districts were necessary; property qualifications should also be done away with. At the universities in Scotland they were abolished; and a most just and true course, for who would think of asking a man what he had in his pocket before he voted for him? The answer to that might be, that if property qualifications were done away with, it would become necessary to pay members of parliament, as those sent at present were comparatively rich men; but the payment of members would be according to the spirit of the constitution; and he was not sure, that if he were returned, he should not apply for the ancient allowance of two shillings a week. The last to which he would advert was the sixth point of the frightful charter, annual parliaments. Again, he contended that they would be in accordance with the constitution, for they were originally limited to one session, and there were instances of three parliaments having assembled in the same year; and since he had seen the value of annual parliaments in America, he had been still more decided than formerly. He had now gone over the six great points of the charter; but the great practical question was, did the House of Commons, as now constituted, enact laws to promote the happiness and general prosperity of the community? After referring, at some length, to Mr Crawford's plan for stopping the supplies, Mr Sturge continued—If he went to the House, he would vote for a full, fair, and free representation of the people; and he would support Sharman Crawford next session, and not vote money till they got it. He would just say a word or two in conclusion. He came forward as an advocate of equal justice to all, and the great principle, which was equally binding on the poor as well as the rich—"Do unto others as ye would others should do unto you." He hoped and trusted that during the contest he had done nothing unnecessarily to wound the feelings of others; and he could assure his friends acting on the committees for Mr Spooner and Mr Scholefield, that he had not issued a single line which he should be ashamed to acknowledge when he met them again in private life. With respect to Mr Spooner, he regretted (although he knew they would meet again next week as cordially as if they had never been opposed) that his friend Spooner, the brother-in-law of the great Wilberforce, with whom he (Mr Sturge) had worked hand in hand, to free the negroes from their state of bondage, could not see things in the same light as himself which were for the benefit of the people. Christianity was not geographical; it was not confined to colour, to country, or to clime; and as an individual, and as a legislator, he would promise to bear in mind the favourite motto of the philanthropist—to do the greatest amount of good to the greatest possible number. Mr Sturge then expressed his earnest hope that the election would be peaceably conducted, and concluded a truly impressive speech amid long-continued applause. No questions were asked him.

A show of hands was then taken, when all hands, with the exception of about fifty, which were held up for the other candidates, were held up for Mr Sturge, and the nomination declared in his favour. It was a most decided expression of popular feeling.

THE POLLING.

At an early hour on Saturday morning the people were astir, and by eight o'clock groups of electors were crowding around the respective polling booths. Up to this time there was a lingering hope that Mr Scholefield would yet withdraw; but the first votes being tendered by members of his committee, their infatuated determination was no longer doubtful. Mr Spooner then took the lead, and kept it. For the first hour Mr Scholefield and Mr Sturge polled nearly equal, but about ten a desperate effort was made by the whigs to poll as far a-head as would enable them, with some show of decency, to lay siege to the hesitating and timid amongst Mr Sturge's friends, in order to keep out the Tory. In this policy they were but too successful; goaded on by the continued advance of Spooner, they issued bills, hired coaches, and put all their persuasive, and we may say intimidative, powers, to work, and for a brief space, betwixt one and two, had some hope of yet trampling on his heels. The rain now poured down in torrents. Many of Mr Sturge's friends,

considering it a matter of little or no moment to record their votes, did not go to the poll, and the consequence was, at four o'clock Spooner was the successful candidate, while about fourteen hundred *bona fide* voters had never gone to the poll at all.

The following are the returns of the state of the poll during the day, made by Mr Spooner's committee. They appear to be for the most part correct:—

	Spooner.	Scholefield.	Sturge.
9 o'clock	150	66	21
10 o'clock	619	315	119
11 o'clock	989	588	170
12 o'clock	1,283	813	227
1 o'clock	1,494	967	247
2 o'clock	1,611	1,075	265
3 o'clock	1,806	1,314	288
Final close	2,101	1,731	345
Majority for Spooner over Scholefield	370		
Over Sturge		1,760	
Over both together			25

MEETING AT THE SUFFRAGE ROOMS, WATERLOO STREET.

Immediately after the poll was closed, a great number of people flocked to the suffrage rooms in Waterloo street, to hear the result. Mr Sturge was present, and most heartily and honestly cheered. The numbers having been announced by Mr MORGAN,

Mr STURGE then addressed them—My fellow-townsmen, you see we are now a little more than Gideon's army of 300 men [hear]. We are told in scripture what great things they did. May we not hope that those three hundred and fifty good men and true, who have this day recorded their votes on the side of the people, will do great things too [cheers]? Under the circumstances, it required a great deal of moral courage to act as they have done; and my only regret is, that so few have been found, out of the two public meetings we had, to stand forward on this occasion, and show that they sympathise with their fellow-townsmen who are less privileged but equally entitled to have a vote with themselves [cheers]. The result of the present contest has gone to confirm my experience of the truth that, until we honestly and boldly fight for principle, and not for party, we shall never succeed in realising for the people their just rights [great cheering]. I regret to find that some have voted to-day for Richard Spooner, who are generally understood to go along with us, and for no other reason than to keep out William Scholefield; while many have voted for William Scholefield, for no other purpose than to keep out Richard Spooner. For my own part, I neither voted for the one nor the other, because I do not approve of the principles of either; and I would suggest to my friends who may find themselves in a similar difficulty, that the right course is not to vote at all [cheers]. The result of this election has also confirmed my conviction that, when one part of a community gets possession of an exclusive privilege, that necessarily begets a spirit of conservatism. This was clearly shown to-day, when the representatives of the so-called liberal interest, who possess the franchise, and brought forward William Scholefield, carried him through the poll, notwithstanding that he was all but unanimously rejected by two of the largest meetings of his fellow-townsmen which were ever held [cheers]. But we have this day taken our stand on a new principle of action, and though comparatively few in number, we find ourselves on vantage ground [hear]. I have long been convinced that we could never make satisfactory progress until we entered upon this course; and I rejoice that my being put in nomination has afforded three hundred and fifty of my fellow-townsmen an opportunity thus to record their votes [great cheering]. I am glad that in conducting this election, nothing has been done which is inconsistent with the great principles of moral virtue by which we profess to be guided; and I hope that nothing will lead us ever to do an act towards our fellow-man which the spirit and precepts of Christianity forbid [great cheering].

Mr HAWKES would express his earnest hope, that the three hundred and fifty radicals would soon be called together to express their extreme gratitude and thankfulness to Mr Sturge for having given them an opportunity that day of recording their votes on the side of justice, and thus made it known to the world, that Birmingham was not to be handed over to the whig party, by whom they had been so long entrained [cheers]. They had not succeeded in carrying the man on whom their hearts were fixed, but it was satisfactory to find that the Birmingham whig clique had now got its death blow, and that there was a body of men in the town who had stepped forward in the hour of danger, and saved the cause of liberty from falling into unworthy hands [cheers]. That independent little band would grow and prosper, while the other, like a blasted thing, would perish and wither away [cheers]. They (the whigs) felt that their power was gone, and that those who had on the present occasion rallied around Joseph Sturge, and found in him a staunch and never-failing friend, were determined that the borough was not to be handed down from father to son, but at next opportunity would shake itself clear of both whig and tory domination, and stand forth as the independent representative of real radical reform [great cheering]. The whigs had often told them (the radicals) of late, that they had no power. Would they say so now [hear]? By whose power had Richard Spooner been returned that day [cheers]? The whigs did not dispute the supreme merits of Mr Sturge; but there was such a vast and overwhelming influence in favour of whiggery which could not be called forth in favour of Mr Sturge—that Mr Scholefield must be the man [a laugh]. Well now, and what had the overwhelm-

ing influence done for him? Why, he had polled fewer votes than any whig candidate had ever polled before [hear, hear, hear]; and that, too, with the aid of many of their friends, who ought to blush for the votes they had that day given [cheers]. But the assertion of their principles was a matter of much greater importance than the return of either Mr Scholefield or Mr Spooner; and the whig party, after exhibiting all their deceptive colouring, and using all their wily and subtle arts to cajole and mislead the unthinking and the timid, were now cast down, down—never, never, to rise again [great cheering]. Mr Sturge, with all sincerity, would rather that they would spare any mark of gratitude to him personally, but rather share it with those three hundred and fifty electors who were more worthy of it. The feeling which they had shown on the present occasion was to him a source of satisfaction, which he could not overvalue, and indeed he felt that so strongly at the public meeting, the other day, that he remarked to a friend on leaving, that he was comparatively indifferent as to the result of the poll, feeling as he did that in the procedure of that meeting they had a moral triumph which would yet be felt in every part of the world [cheers].

Mr MORGAN strongly recommended the meeting to look after the registrations, and expressed his hope that under the new interpretation of the Reform act, 2,000 additional democratic voters would be secured in Birmingham [cheers]. The meeting then broke up

DECLARATION OF THE POLL.

(From the Times.)

The state of the poll was officially declared on Monday morning. The Town hall, as on the day of nomination, was densely crowded by the partisans of the three candidates. Mr Spooner and Mr Sturge, on presenting themselves in the organ gallery, were loudly cheered. Mr Scholefield did not make his appearance, and, as compared with the friends of his two opponents, the attendance of his supporters was very limited.

At twelve o'clock the Mayor announced that the number of votes polled for the several candidates were as follows:—

For Mr Spooner	2,095
For Mr Scholefield	1,735
For Mr Sturge	345

Total number polled	4,175
Majority for Mr Spooner over Mr Scholefield	360
Mr Sturge	1,749
both Mr Scholefield	

and Mr Sturge

The Mayor concluded by stating, that, as returning-officer, it was now his duty to declare that Mr Richard Spooner was duly elected a representative in parliament for the borough of Birmingham [cheers and groans].

Mr SPOONER then addressed the meeting. He could assure them he was a man who would not unnecessarily obtrude himself upon the House of Commons. He would neither be a noisy oppositionist, nor an over-zealous, talkative government supporter.

Mr STURGE was most vociferously applauded. He referred to the manner in which he had been solicited to come forward as a candidate. He did not regret that he had stood by his pledge, and given every elector an opportunity of recording his vote for or against him [cheers]. He would tell his friend behind him (Mr Spooner) that he (Mr Sturge) preferred being the head of what had been termed the forlorn hope, the representative of the non-represented, to being, as he (Mr Spooner) was, the mere representative of a small section of the people. They should no doubt be charged with creating disunion amongst the liberal interest. The time was coming, however, when they should see who the liberal interest were. As he had told them on Friday, he thought the people had as much to hope from the Carlton club as they had from the Reform club [cheers]. He was sorry to allude to a circumstance which occurred on Saturday. He believed a large number of electors who had promised him their votes, supported Mr Spooner, and a still larger number voted for Mr Scholefield. His committee reported to him on Friday, claimed a majority upon the canvass of 25 per cent. over Mr Scholefield, and 34 per cent. over Mr Spooner. The hon. gentleman, in conclusion, rejoiced in the spirit in which the election had been conducted. He had not heard of a single act on the part of Mr Spooner's friends of which they need be ashamed. He hoped, as the election was now over, they should be as good neighbours as if no such event had occurred [cheers].

Upon the motion of Mr Sturge, seconded by Mr Spooner, a vote of thanks was passed to the Mayor amidst general acclamations.

The MAYOR briefly acknowledged the honour conferred upon him, and the meeting, after three cheers for Mr Spooner, and one for Mr Sturge and the people, broke up.

The number of registered voters is 6,383, which clearly shows that a great number did not poll at all.

IMPRISONMENT OF MR O'CONNELL.—A meeting of the Working Men's Association took place at the Corn exchange, Exeter, on Wednesday evening, when an address of sympathy to Mr O'Connell and the other defendants in the state trials, now in prison along with him, was unanimously agreed to. Mr Bealey occupied the chair.—*Western Times*.

LIVERPOOL MECHANICS' INSTITUTION.—The directors of this institution have just issued a prospectus of a Girls' school, on a large scale, which they intend to open on the 5th of August next. There are already two day schools for boys connected with the institution, which are attended by upwards of eight hundred pupils, and whose success has been even greater than their projectors anticipated. The com-

parative neglect with which female education has hitherto been treated, and its great importance to the welfare of the human race, appear to have induced the directors to take the bold step of establishing a school capable of giving instruction to four hundred girls, at such a charge as to make it easy for those who require education most to avail themselves of its advantages. The course of instruction, as detailed in the prospectus, is very comprehensive, embracing little that is showy and ornamental, but all that in education is solid and useful. A large airy building, surrounded by extensive playgrounds, has been, by the timely munificence of Mr George Holt, one of the directors, secured on highly advantageous terms for the use of the school. There can be little doubt that such an establishment will not only be successful in itself, but will, it is to be hoped, have an important bearing in the cause of female education generally, and set a worthy example to other institutions.

NEW SCHOOLS.—**MANCHESTER.**—On Saturday evening a very important and interesting service was held in Grosvenor street, Piccadilly, Manchester, on the occasion of laying the foundation stone of the new schools in connexion with Grosvenor street chapel, to be called the "Roby Day and Sunday Schools." The highly-esteemed minister of the chapel, the Rev. Richard Fletcher, commenced the service by giving out a hymn, and reading several appropriate portions of the sacred scriptures, after which he offered up a very solemn prayer that the building might be erected without accident, and that the schools might be made a blessing to many generations. Samuel Fletcher, Esq., then laid the foundation stone, and delivered an appropriate address. At the conclusion of Mr Fletcher's speech, the national anthem was sung, and three hearty cheers were given by the numerous assembly. The evening being very fine, a large number of the friends and teachers afterwards took tea together, in the school room underneath the chapel, and after one of the most delightful meetings ever held within that interesting and useful Sunday school, the meeting separated about half-past nine o'clock. The new schools will be erected on the vacant land behind the chapel, leaving an area of about eight yards between the back of the chapel and the back of the school rooms. The cost of the buildings will be upwards of £2,500, to be defrayed out of £3,070 already promised by that church and congregation for the purpose of extending scriptural education. The committee have it in contemplation to erect another school in a destitute part of this town after the present building is completed.—*Manchester Times*.

Eddowes's Journal mentions that Lord Hill, at his last annual rent audit, offered his tenants leases for eleven years at a reduction of from seven to ten per cent.; with the promise, in case they found the agreements not advantageous, of cancelling the leases and receiving them as yearly tenants.

DISTRESS OF THE LABOURING CLASSES.—At a meeting of farmers, tradespeople, and labourers, at the village of Stratton St Margarets, near Swindon, on Tuesday, more disclosures of the wretched condition of the Wiltshire labourers were made. It was stated, that during that and the preceding day, forty persons had been apprehended at Wansborough for felony; most of them young men, who had probably become criminals from the pressure of want. One of the speakers was a labourer from the workhouse, whither he had been driven by the insufficiency of his wages to support himself and family. The complaint of all classes was distress. The following extract from a speech by Mr John Arkell, is a sample:—

"In a neighbouring parish there had been twenty-three men employed on the roads, receiving from 4s. to 6s. per week. He had that day seen two men working on the roads, one of them, with a wife and six children, received 6s. a week; the other had a wife, and received only 4s. When the haymaking season approached they had been taken off the roads; but so little employment could be obtained that they had been obliged to employ many of them again on the roads, even in the summer season. At Bishopstoke the labourers only received 7s. a week, and at Ashbury many men were employed on the roads at 1s. a day. At Woolstone many men were out of employ. He had the names of seven or eight men above twenty years of age who had been working on the roads in that parish at rate of 3s. per week; others with wives and families had been receiving 6s. per week; so they would see it was not their labour but their families they were paid for. At Shrivenham, a parish where the land was as good as any in England, there were twenty-six men out of employ last week." A petition was adopted against excessive taxation and the corn laws.

THE STRIKE.—The pitmen, we are sorry to say, are still, to a great extent, "on strike;" although the secessions from the union, and arrivals of fresh hands from a distance, are already considerable. A meeting of twenty thousand colliers, out on strike, took place, on Monday, at Shaden hill, near Sunderland, at which resolutions were passed not to submit to the terms of the coal owners, but to continue the strike. At the recent quarter sessions for Durham, upwards of seventy pitmen were brought to trial for various offences—chiefly riot, rescue, and assault; and, with one exception, they were all convicted, and sentenced to terms of imprisonment, with hard labour, varying from six months to six weeks. The county gaol is extremely crowded, there being about one hundred and fifty more prisoners in it now than at the corresponding period last year. All the prisoners are described in the calendar as without education, or barely able to read and write; the former largely preponderating.

Wheat was cut on the 29th June, at Wadebridge, in Cornwall. On Monday, oats were cut near Brighton.

ELECTION OF COUNCILLORS FOR THE BOROUGH OF SALFORD.—The first election of councillors for the new borough of Salford, took place on Friday. The polling commenced at nine o'clock, and was continued with great spirit till four, when a majority appeared in favour of the liberals, of 17 to 7. The chartists coalesced with the Tories.

THE TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT.—On Tuesday evening last, the first large public meeting of the British Temperance Association was held in the lecture theatre of the Manchester Mechanics' institution. It was well attended. The object of the meeting was more especially to take steps for commencing the raising of a fund of £10,000 for the advance of the temperance cause. Samuel Hagur occupied the chair. A large meeting was also held in Salford.

POST-OFFICE ESPIONAGE.—On Monday evening, the 8th inst., a public meeting was held at Gateshead, over which the mayor presided, to petition parliament in reference to the late disclosures on this subject. The principal speakers were Mr Alderman Brockett, Mr Dixon, Mr Harle, and Mr J. Robson. We take the following interesting paragraph from Mr Brockett's speech, reported in the *Gateshead Observer*:

The worst feature of the transaction—if one feature in so dark a system could be blacker than another—was the re-sealing of the letters after they had been opened, and the patronage thereby given by the government to forgery [hear, hear]. Why, even in Austria no such deception was resorted to. There, when a letter was opened, it was forwarded to its destination with the postmark, "Opened by authority." This was a frankness which did not accord with the spirit that at present presided over the home office of England. When a letter was to be opened at St Martin's-le-Grand, a copy of the seal was taken, and the wax was then removed, the letter read, and the forged seal made use of to prevent all suspicion of tampering. There were two modes of forging the seals of letters: perhaps there were more—but two had come to light. They were both of them, he could assure the meeting, very easy, for he had tried them [laughter]. He would exhibit the two processes. [The impression of a seal in wax was laid on a small anvil, and covered with a piece of smooth lead, about the thickness of a penny piece. The lead was then struck smartly with a hammer, and converted by the blow into a perfect seal. The experiment was tried repeatedly, and afforded much amusement to the meeting. The *Atlas* describes it as a "palpable absurdity" to say that seals can be so multiplied, but our contemporary should have tried the process before he declared its impracticability. Mr B. next produced several casts of seals obtained by means of plaster of Paris, and impressions taken from them in wax.] He had occasion, he said, to write to the borough member, Mr Hutt, by the mail of that day, and he first informed him of what they were about in Gateshead, and then sealed the letter with a forged copy in plaster of his (Mr Hutt's) own seal [laughter]. Sir James Graham, also, he had no doubt, had received many letters, since the recent disclosures, sealed with his own seal, forged at *la Home Office* [laughter].

The tower of a new church, just erected at Halsted, in Essex, fell on Wednesday afternoon, with a tremendous crash: it was not quite completed, but had reached the height of 116 feet. The builder, seeing the tower sinking, called off the workmen; and thus all escaped but one, who was slightly injured.

Four persons have been suffocated in the Old Coal mines at Beaufort, in Wales. The mine being on fire, the individuals who perished foolishly ventured further than the other miners to examine its state.

Last week, a little boy, the son of a chimney-sweeper, was suffocated by slipping into an aperture adjoining a flue at Goldings, the seat of Lord Reay, in Hertfordshire. The boy's father had sent the child up the flue, contrary to his lordship's directions, who desired that the machine only should be used. On the child calling for aid, a bricklayer was obtained to break a hole in the chimney: but it was four hours before the place was found where the poor boy had miserably perished.

FRIGHTFUL ADULTERATION OF HUMAN FOOD.—So long ago as April last, the commissioner of police in this town, Mr Dowling, received an anonymous letter from Cumberland, stating that gypsum, that is, primitive alabaster, was ground in large quantities, at a mill near Carlisle, and forwarded to Liverpool, under such circumstances as rendered the suspicion reasonable that it was used in the adulteration of flour, which it strongly resembles in appearance. Due vigilance being exercised, it was found that quantities of it arrived from Carlisle, consigned to a person here whose name is known, and who received it as gypsum, but afterwards shipped it to Runcorn as flour. It was consigned to a miller in that neighbourhood. The authorities there were put on the alert by Mr Dowling, and some rumours having transpired, it was observed that the sacks of gypsum lay unclaimed for many weeks. At length, however, when the affair seemed to be lulled, it was called for, and immediately afterwards, we learn, Mr William Pattinson, of Cuddington mill, near Weaverham, was fined £10, by the Cheshire magistrates, for having gypsum in his possession. The officers detected him in the act of mixing it, and flour which was purchased from him was found adulterated with gypsum. They found and seized twenty-three bags of that article, and some further charges for mixing and selling it are to come on at another meeting of the magistrates. Thus is our "daily bread" adulterated; thus is the craft of the mason carried on in our very stomachs, and mortar there produced which is of mortal effect; and thus a family wishing to purchase a stone of flour, is literally furnished with a flour of stone.—*Liverpool Mercury*.

MELANCHOLY OCCURRENCE.—On Monday afternoon, a lady named Mrs Bentley, with her two daughters, eight and ten years of age, her nephew, and two boatmen, were sailing in a small pleasure boat, about a mile from Brighton, when the boat was observed to upset, there being a brisk breeze at the time. The whole were immersed in the water. Mrs Bentley and the two men were picked up by fishermen, but the gentleman and the two young ladies had disappeared. The boatmen saved themselves by swimming, and it is supposed Mrs Bentley's clothes kept her above water.

ALARMING FIRE AT SALFORD.—An extensive fire broke out, on Sunday morning, upon the premises of Messrs George Wilson and Co., machine makers, engineers, &c., Garden lane, Salford, which, in the course of an hour, were completely gutted; and the fire also communicated with the extensive sizing works of Messrs J. Lavino and Co., with which there was a communication by a wooden stage across the street, and which were speedily leveled with the ground. The loss of property occasioned by this disastrous event is stated to exceed £10,000, the principal part of which is covered by insurances.

INCENDIARISM IN THE EASTERN COUNTIES.—The following letter, referring to a communication on the above subject, which appeared in our last number, appeared in the *Suffolk Chronicle* of Saturday, under the signature of "Agricola."

SIR—I have just seen in the *Nonconformist*, with some surprise, a letter signed J. D. Everitt, charging incendiaryism to the account of chartism, Anti-corn-law League, *Suffolk Chronicle*, *Times* reporter, and the *Nonconformist*, while he seems to have conceived the idea that, as he knows "but little of Stowmarket or its neighbourhood," that that was the very place for him to choose, as the spot from which to make contradictions of the *Times* reporter, in his statement relative to Mr Spelman, of Westhorpe.

You, sir, can tell Mr Everitt that I am no great partisan of the *Times*, but I am satisfied the gentleman who has reported on the state of Suffolk, has so exactly probed the evils of these agricultural districts, and points out so accurately to the mischief, that every one who is interested in the welfare of the country is bound to give him aid.

I have observed a difference on a point of fact exists between the *Times* reporter and his opponents, in relation to a fire on the premises of Mr Spelman, of Westhorpe; and Mr Everitt has been at the pains to take the signatures of three persons, to prove that no such person lives at Westhorpe. One of them "certifies" that he has never heard of a fire there, and must have heard of it if it had taken place; this gentleman signs at Wickham Skeith, a village where ignorance was so rampant nine years ago, that your paper announced the fact of a man charged with witchcraft there, being nearly drowned in an experiment to prove the charge, by throwing him in a horse-pond.

It never occurred to Mr Everitt, nor this Wickham farmer and his coadjutors—who are obviously no witches—that there might be some close resemblance in names, to lead to a mistake, or it may be, they never heard of the parish of Westhall, in this county, where lives Mr Spelman, on whose farm a fire occurred on or about the 10th of June, as stated by the *Times* reporter.

Advise these Suffolk farmers to wait a little, and see what the *Times* reporter makes of the lord lieutenant of Norfolk, before they try their hands at contradictions of this kind.

INCENDIARISM.—No fewer than three incendiary fires occurred on Wednesday and Thursday last week, at the village of Sproatley, near Hull. At Buckingham, on Thursday, James Holbrook, a carpenter, was found guilty of setting fire to a wheat-rick, the property of his uncle-in-law, and was sentenced to be transported for life.

IRELAND.

CRUSADE AGAINST GREEN FLAGS.—The naval officer in command of her Majesty's war steamer, the *Flamer*, stationed at Limerick, proceeded, on Sunday last, with a party of his men, and pulled down the green flags from all the shipping on the quays. In one or two instances his mandate was obeyed, however, reluctantly. In the *Undine* and the *Belle* there was no resistance; but the mate of the *Harlette* distinctly refused—to his high and lasting honour be it ever spoken. The mate—we know not his name, his country, or his creed—refused to obey the despotic order, and the gallant British commander was lashed into such a towering passion that he was scarcely able to enunciate the order to his men to mount aloft and tear the offensive emblem from its resting place. He seized the flags, and had them sent aboard of her Majesty's ship, as a trophy of this splendid engagement in the service of his sovereign.

REPEAL BUTTON WAR.—On Wednesday, another assault upon the owner of a repeal button, of a much more serious character than that made by Sergeant Cassan, of the 24th, upon the carman, took place at the Royal barracks. It appeared that a young man from the country, who was not aware of the edict against repeal buttons, came to Dublin to seek payment from a captain of the 24th, of an I O U, which he held of his, and was proceeding to his lodgings in the barracks for that purpose, when he was met by an officer of that regiment, who drew his sword and desired him to go back, and on the man refusing to do so until paid the amount due to him, he was severely assaulted. The young man is, it appears, of a very respectable family, and has rich connexions in Dublin, who are determined to bring the matter before the higher tribunals. There will be an investigation about the matter at the head office tomorrow. On Saturday, Captain Mathews, of the 34th regiment, was committed to take his trial for assault and larceny, in forcing from the breast of a man named Ennis a repeal button, while proceeding to Portobello barracks for the payment of some money. The captain was bailed out. This will

doubtless put a stop in future to such oppressive proceedings.

REPEAL ASSOCIATION.—At a meeting of the Kilkenny Registry association on Wednesday, Mr Somerset Butler, M.P., announced his determination to attend the meetings at the Conciliation hall.

LORD DE GREY AND THE ORANGEMEN.—A meeting was held at the Rotunda, on Friday, to afford the Orange party an opportunity of expressing their regret at the departure of Lord de Grey. The attendance was almost entirely composed of the lower class of Orangemen, very few persons of respectable station or society having been present. After some difficulty a chairman was found in the Dean of Kildare. The speakers were those persons who generally figure at the meetings of the Orange club, called the "Metropolitan Conservative Society."

THE TWELFTH OF JULY.—As far as the accounts yet received extend, there was no interruption of public tranquillity in Ulster yesterday. The authorities appear to have adopted very salutary precautions against outrages.

A letter has been received by the Commander of the Forces from the horse guards, inquiring if it would be safe to withdraw some of the troops from Ireland, and it is said he replied that it would not until O'Connell be released from prison. The whole military force in Ireland, including the artillery, is 26,700 men; there are besides ten thousand police, as well armed and equipped as soldiers of the line, and twelve thousand pensioners, fit for active service; so that the number of men ready to be called out amounts to nearly 50,000. People are surprised that nothing has emanated from the pen of O'Connell since his imprisonment; but it is a fact, that if he were to publish anything with his name to it, he would be deprived of pen and ink, and prevented from writing altogether.—*Liverpool Mercury*.

LIMERICK ELECTION.—The election to fill up the vacancy caused by the resignation of Sir David Roche, took place on Tuesday last, when J. Kelly, Esq., was returned without opposition; being, according to the *Limerick Reporter*, "the first member who goes into parliament pledged to attend the meetings of the Conciliation hall."

THE TEMPERANCE CAUSE AND THE MILITARY.—A soldier named Lally, belonging to the thirty-fourth regiment, addressed a very large assemblage at Dublin last week, on the subject of temperance; and immediately after speaking, he was taken into custody by a picket of his regiment, "for addressing a public meeting."

MR THOMAS O'BRIEN, the once flaming repealer, and now its bitter opponent, whose appointment to the magistracy occasioned much animadversion lately, resigned his post on Thursday, to the expressed regret of the Lord-lieutenant.

BARBERING PAUPERS.—It was resolved last Saturday by those humane, Christian gentlemen, the Dunmanway guardians of the poor, that all the woman were to be "cropped," their hair cut close—thus uniting degradation and poverty, shaved polls and porridge? It was further resolved, that, if the master's wife had not cropped every female head in the house by the 8th, she was to forfeit £1.—*Cork Examiner*.

SCOTLAND.

REPEAL MOVEMENT IN GLASGOW.—The public petition on behalf of a repeal of the legislative act of union between Ireland and Great Britain, laid down for signature in this city during the present week, was signed in four days by no fewer than 40,000 inhabitants.—*Glasgow Post*.

THE POET BURNS.—It is intended to have a grand festival in honour of the poet Burns. It will be one of unusual brilliancy, and will be patronised by large numbers of the Scottish nobility and gentry, who have already signified their intention of being present, to pay their tribute of respect to the memory of Scotland's greatest poet. The festival will take place on the 1st of August, and Lord Eglinton will preside.

THE FALKIRK BURGHS.—It is currently rumoured in these burghs, that Captain John Forbes, of the Coldstream Guards, and brother of the member for Stirlingshire, is to be brought forward whenever a vacancy occurs; the resignation of Mr Baird being confidently talked of.

THE POLITICAL "MARTYR'S" MONUMENT.—It was stated some time ago, that this monument was about to be commenced on a piece of ground granted by the town council on the Calton Hill, immediately to the east of Burns's monument. It appears, however, that the fears on the Regent and Royal terraces, having intimated their determination to insist upon their right of servitude against buildings being erected along the south side of the Regent-road, the monument committee have abandoned their intention of placing it on the Calton Hill.—*Caledonian Mercury*.

Mr Leonard Horner was entertained on Friday week, at a public dinner, in the Bristol hotel, Edinburgh, as the founder of the School of Arts. The Lord Provost occupied the chair; and many persons of station and eminence in science and literature were present. The chairman said that during the twenty-three years of its existence, the institution had afforded instruction to upwards of 8000 mechanics, by means of which many of them had risen to considerable eminence.

A forest has been discovered below the level of the water in Loch Oich, in the course of the great Caledonian canal, which is now undergoing repair. The waters of the loch being low, some hundreds of trees of all sizes have been taken out; they are chiefly of fine black oak, and many are of large size and in high preservation, whilst others are charred as if by fire.

GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS BILL.—On Friday afternoon a meeting of gentlemen interested in railways, was held in the Royal Exchange Sale room, Glasgow, and resolutions were adopted condemnatory of the Government Railways bill.—*Glasgow Citizen.*

A SMOBBION AMONG THE BEES.—Two of the leading men in the parish and Free churches in Inverury had each a new swarm thrown off from hives, on the same day last week. The hive of the churchman took to wing in the forenoon, rose nobly in a thick cloud, and being apparently somewhat erratically disposed, sailed onward until they reached the Free church—attracted, probably, by its flaunting white sides. A short time after, a hive, belonging to the Free kirkman, next took to wing; and, strange to say—kirks appear to be the order of the day among bees as well as among men—made, in a straight undeviating line, for the parish church. Every means was taken to change their course. It would have been a most heretical step for Free church bees to make their home in a moderate hive, the more especially if that hive might chance to be a church. There was contamination in the idea—and so clouds of dust were thrown up to change their penchant for the parish church, which at length succeeded in diverting them from their original purpose. The folks of Inverury are laughing at the moral.—*Aberdeen Herald.*

INCENDIARISM.—We are sorry to learn that two straw stacks, the property of George Sligo, Esq., of Carmyle, Haddingtonshire, were on Friday consumed by wilful fire. An itinerant bookseller has been taken up and lodged in Haddington jail, against whom there are strong suspicions.—*Caledonian Mercury.*

THE SWORD FISH.—Mr Fleming, one of the owners of the Royal Archer of Glasgow, has left at our office, for a few hours, for the inspection of the curious, a piece of the timber belonging to that vessel, with the horn or sword of a sword fish sticking in it to the extraordinary depth of 14 inches. This monster of the deep seems to have come in contact with the Royal Archer, on her homeward voyage from Ithaboe, and struck the bow of the vessel with such extraordinary violence, as to force its weapon through two plates of copper and upwards of a foot into the timber, where it was broken off, either by the violence of the shock, or the desperate efforts of the fish to recover its liberty. It was most fortunate that the weapon remained in the bow of the vessel, for it had made an opening, which, if not plugged up in that manner, would probably have sunk her.—*Liverpool Times.*

THE COURT.—On Wednesday afternoon, her Majesty and Prince Albert, and the infant members of the Royal family, left Buckingham Palace, for Windsor Castle. On the same evening the Duchess of Kent arrived at Frogmore Lodge from the Continent.

Tuesday's *Gazette* announced that the lords of the treasury, having certified to the commissioners for the reduction of the national debt, that the actual surplus of revenue beyond the expenditure, for the year ended the 5th of April last, amounted to £2,095,427 9s. 7d., the commissioners will apply one-fourth of the surplus to the purchase of stock and exchequer bills.

IMPORTANT POST OFFICE NOTICE.—The following important notice was issued on Saturday, by command of the Right Hon. the Earl of Lonsdale, the postmaster-general:—"General Post office, July, 1844.—As there is reason to believe that, under some misapprehension of the law, a practice has for some time existed of forwarding consignees' and other letters out of the United Kingdom by contract packet-boats, otherwise than through the Post-office, the postmaster-general thinks it necessary to point out that such a practice is in direct contravention of the law, as no letters, whatever may be their nature or description, can be legally sent out of the United Kingdom by packet-boat otherwise than through the Post office; and any infringement of the law in this respect will render the parties liable to prosecution."

A bill has been introduced into the House of Commons by Mr Hawes, for the purpose of providing houses of refuge for the reception of juvenile offenders in England. The bill proposes that these juvenile offenders, in being released from prison, should be supported, instructed, and usefully employed, with a view of reclaiming them from vicious habits.

FREEMANHOOD VOTES.—DISSENTING MINISTERS.—"If lands or tenements be held subject to a trust directing the rents and profits, or a sufficient portion of them, to be paid to the party so designated in the instrument creating the trust as to be capable of being distinctly ascertained (as to the person officiating as minister at a chapel, or to the schoolmaster teaching a school, &c.), such person being appointed for life or for any uncertain period which may endure for life, will be entitled to vote as a freeholder, customary tenant, or leaseholder, according to the nature of the estate held in trust."—*Manning, Jurist*, vol. ii. p. 459.

THE PROSPECTS OF SHIPPING.—The prospects of British shipping are at present more favourable than they have been for some time. The recent accounts of freights from India are very favourable, and we understand that those from Canada are also very good, 4s. 6d. to 6s. per barrel being the price paid for flour, and about 35s. per load the price for timber.—*Liverpool Times.*

On Friday, Lord Wodehouse made an ample apology, in the *Times*, for the harsh expressions he had used towards the reporter of that journal, and admitted that he had misapprehended his statements.

EVERYBODY'S COLUMN.

"I am transported to see you," as the convict said to the kangaroo.

A post-mistress in Scotland has been fined £5, or to be imprisoned for 60 days, for the offence of opening a post letter.

In the court of Queen's Bench, last week, the jury refused to make a husband responsible for an extravagant milliner's bill to his wife, comprehending amongst other items ten new bonnets and forty-three pairs of gloves in seven months!

Gold is 0.06 per cent. dearer in London than in Paris; and 0.69 per cent. dearer in Hamburgh than in London.

It is stated that in consequence of the alteration required in the business of the Bank by the new charter, no less than ninety additional clerks will have to be taken on.

On the 22nd ult., the coat of the Rev. G. A. Lowe, Roman catholic priest, of Morpeth, Northumberland, was sold by public auction for 25s., for church rates, due to the protestant rector, Mr Grey, a son of Earl Grey. The rector has £1600 a year; the income of the priest is under £100.

Mr Pressly, of the stamps and taxes, declares authoritatively that every aperture admitting light, however made, and through whatever material, whether in a cellar, water-closet, &c., of a house, is liable to the window duties.

RECIPE FOR THE SLEEPLESS.—If a man can't sleep, let him lie on his back in the open air, and undertake to count the stars. Before he has got half through he will be in a comfortable snooze.

The number of petitions against the Dissenters' Chapels bill, up to last week, was 2164, with 316,276 signatures; for the bill, 621 petitions, with 188,816 signatures.

The Duke of Norfolk will not permit a beer house keeper to have employment on his estates. His eldest son, the Earl of Arundel, is a teetotaler.

A sympathising address to Mr O'Connell and his fellow patriots has been forwarded from Leicester, with 2579 signatures, including those of 22 members of the town council.

It is stated in the *Dublin Pilot* that government have spies in nearly every catholic chapel in Ireland.

"I am afraid," said a lady to her husband, "that I am going to have a stiff neck." "Not at all improbable, my dear," replied her spouse, "I have seen strong symptoms of it ever since we were married."

The Wesleyan methodists of the Bingham circuit have erected a moveable wooden meeting-house upon wheels, capable of seating about 120 persons, at a cost of about £60, for the accommodation of several villages where no site can be obtained.

A most important post-office arrangement is said to be in progress, by which it is anticipated that, by steamers, letters will be sent to China in 50 days.

A gentleman in Brighton has received a letter from a friend in Sydney, dated January 15th, which states, that the colony is much distressed, and that business of all kinds is almost at a standstill.

"On Saturday morning, July 6th," says a writer in the *Warder*, "Mr O'Connell commenced his great literary labour, his 'Life and Times,' or by what other style and title his projected autobiography is to be distinguished, employing Mr O'Neill Daunt as his amanuensis."

A NEW COMET.—The discovery of a new comet in the constellation of Hercules was announced at the sitting of the Academy of Sciences, Paris, on the 8th instant. It is slightly nebulous, but the observations appear to have been as yet imperfect.

THE CAMEL.—The camel is the only animal that cannot swim. It is an extraordinary fact that the moment they lose their footing in a stream they turn over, and can make no effort to prevent themselves from being drowned.

AGES OF THE ANIMAL CREATION.—The following scale of the average duration of animal life is collected from Linnaeus, Buffon, and other celebrated writers on natural history:—A hare will live 10 years; a cat, 10; a goat, 8; an ass, 30; a sheep, 10; a ram, 15; a dog, 20; a bull, 15; an ox (a curious fact), 20; swine, 25; a peacock, 25; a horse, from 20 to 30; a pigeon, 8; a turtle dove, 25; a partridge, 25; a raven, 100; an eagle, 100.

JOHN WESLEY ON THE ALLIANCE BETWEEN CHURCH AND STATE.—"I have long been convinced from the whole tenor of church history, that this very event—Constantine's calling himself a Christian, and pouring that flood of wealth and honour on the Christian church, the clergy in particular, was productive of more evil to the church than all the ten persecutions put together."

The three great creative minds to whose exquisite inventions all nations at this moment yield—Rossini, Meyerbeer, Mendelssohn, are of the Hebrew race; and little do your men of fashion, your "muscadins" of Paris, and your dandies of London, as they thrill into rapture at the notes of a Pasta or a Grisi—little do they suspect that they are offering their homage to the sweet singers of Israel!—*Coningsby.*

REMARKABLE REPEATING WATCH.—In the Academy of Sciences, at St Petersburg, in Russia, is a repeating watch, about the size of an egg. Within is represented the Redeemer's tomb, with the stone at the entrance, and the sentinels; and, while a spectator is admiring this curious piece of mechanism, the stone is suddenly removed, the sentinels drop down, the angels appear, the women enter the sepulchre, and the same chant is heard which is performed in the Greek church on Easter eve.

The 32nd clause of the Factories bill provides that all females shall be considered as young persons. The factory then, after all, is the paradise for ladies of a certain age.

Religious Intelligence.

RELIGIOUS ANNIVERSARIES IN AMERICA.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Boston, May 16, 1844.

We are just entering upon the season of the anniversaries of our large benevolent societies and religious bodies. It will gratify you and your readers, I suppose, to have a brief notice of some of the more important of them. A full account of all, or of all the proceedings of those I shall notice even, would require you to get out an extra. As we have no great common centre, like London, our anniversaries are held at different points—some in New York, some in Philadelphia, some in Boston, others in Cincinnati—and those at any one point are generally crowded into one week, not extended through three or four. The first, in the order of time, are those which occur in New York. These have just passed. Generally speaking, they have been attended with unusual spirit and interest. The first of the series was that of the "American Seamen's Friend Society," and was held on Monday evening, May 6th, in the tabernacle—a large and commodious place on Broadway—the Exeter hall of New York. The present is its sixteenth annual report; and from it, it appears, that the society's "domestic operations," which consist of the establishment and maintenance of places of worship, boarding houses, temperance societies, &c., for the benefit of seamen along our whole seaboard, have, without exception, received a new impulse within the past year. The "Marine Temperance Society" of the city of New York now numbers 16,000 members. The records of the marine and police courts in the same city, show that in the former, suits for assault and battery at sea, have diminished at least two-thirds within a year or two; while in the latter, in the same time, prosecutions against seamen have diminished at least 50 per cent; and generally, there has been a decided improvement in the character of seamen. In its "foreign operations," the society supports, in whole or part, chaplains at Gottenburg, Stockholm, Amsterdam, Havre, Sydney, Honolulu and Lahaina. The receipts for the year, from all sources, have been 18,745 dollars, or about £3,750. "At every foreign station," the report states, "we hear of more or less seamen brought, within the year, to a knowledge of the truth; while in our ports, the Holy Spirit has descended like the dew upon the mountains of Zion; but the most striking illustrations of the mercy and grace of God have been witnessed at sea." Besides several interesting individual cases alluded to, the report states, "In one vessel we find five sailors recently born again. In another, eight out of ten in the fore-castle are praying and singing praise to God every morning and evening. In another, ten hopelessly converted to God in a fortnight. In another, seventeen in a week; and in several others the entire crews, masters, and officers, apparently new creatures in Christ Jesus. One of these claims to be 'the happiest ship that floats;' and another, 'heaven begun below.' The presentation of the report was accompanied with the usual resolutions and speeches.

On the same (Monday) evening, in another place, the "Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions" held its anniversary. This is the board of the old school presbyterians—the new school sending their missionary contributions to the American board. The Rev. Dr Miller, of Princeton, New Jersey, is president; and Walter Lowrie, Esq., of New York city, secretary. The receipts for the year have been 63,653 dollars, or about £12,730. Eight missionaries were sent out during the year; three returned; five are now ready to go. The society has eighty labourers in foreign fields, thirty-four of whom are ministers of the gospel. The missions of the society are three in Texas, three among our own Indians, one at Siberia in Africa, three in Northern India, two in Siam, and one in China.

The "Society for the Melioration of the Jews" held its anniversary on Tuesday morning. This society, for some years past, has been virtually dead. Within the last year or two, efforts have been made to resuscitate it, not altogether in vain. The receipts for the year have been 5521 dollars, or something over a £1000; and the society has had some two or three persons in its service, who have been engaged in various efforts for the conversion of the Jews to the Christian faith.

On Tuesday evening, the meeting of the "Foreign Evangelical Society" was held—Hon. Theodore Preshinghuyson in the chair. The object of this society is to carry evangelical Christianity to nominally Christian, and especially catholic, countries. The Canadas and the continent are as yet its principal fields. The receipts for the year have been 17,288 dollars, or about £3458. The annual report was drawn up by Dr Baird, and is of course voluminous. The society has contributed to the support, for longer or shorter periods within the year, of seventy-five labourers in France and Belgium, who have laboured as colporteurs, evangelists, &c., besides which, it has mostly sustained the Swiss mission in Canada. This last is a mission of unusual interest and success. It has now five stations, some of which are subdivided into districts. Catholicism is nowhere stronger on this continent than in Canada, yet the mission has been steadily growing in the affections of the people; and latterly, there have been quite a number of hopeful conversions. The mission has now fourteen young men who are preparing, in one form or other, to preach the gospel. Those who possess the least natural talents, are to be employed as colporteurs, the next grade as school teachers, and the next as regular ministers. This society has been formed but some four or five years; and is growing rapidly, I think, in popular favour.

The "American Tract Society" held its meeting on Wednesday morning—the hon. Theodore Frelinghuysen, president, in the chair. The operations of this Society are now of a fourfold character—the circulation of tracts, the circulation of bound volumes, the system of colportage, and its foreign operations. The report for the year opens thus:—"The nineteenth year of the society's labours has been attended with the signal blessing of God. The receipts have exceeded those of the previous year by more than 12,000 dollars (£2,400); the gratuitous issues of publications, by more than seven million pages; the foreign pecuniary grants, by 5,000 dollars (£1,000); and the number of colporteurs employed among the destitute of our own country is more than double; while the evidences weekly received of the blessing of the Holy Spirit in leading souls, by these means, to the Divine and only Redeemer, have caused the hearts of the officers and members of the committee to bound with joy and thanksgiving." The total receipts have been 108,744 dollars, or some £21,750. Of this amount 15,000 dollars have been expended on colporteur operations at home; 20,000 have been remitted for foreign and pagan lands; and some 16,000 dollars in other gratuitous distributions of publications and tracts to the destitute. The society's operations abroad are generally through the missionaries of the different mission boards. Colportage and volume circulation are just now the prominent features in its home operations. The society has had seventy-three colporteurs in its service during the year, twenty-three of whom have been Germans and Frenchmen, four have laboured specially among their own countrymen. Great vigour and encouraging success characterise all of this society's operations. Its officers, however, do not seem to have found out that there are any slaves in this country. They have tracts for all sorts of sins and sinners, and colporteurs for all sorts and conditions of people; but I am not aware that they have a printed page for the sin of the slaveholder, or a solitary colporteur for the soul of the slave!

The "American Home Missionary Society" held its eighteenth anniversary on the evening of the same day. This society also has been able to make important advances in its operations for the last year. The current contributions, irrespective of legacies, have been 9,150 dollars (£1,830) greater than the last year. The total of receipts has been 101,905 dollars (£20,381). The society has had in its service, the past year, 907 ministers of the gospel, receiving more or less of their support from the society, according to their respective circumstances. Their fields of labour have been in twenty-six different states and territories of the Union and in Texas. The number of congregations and missionary districts supplied, in whole or part, by them has been 1245, and the aggregate of ministerial labour performed is 665 years. This number of missionaries is greater by 59 than that of any former year, and the number of congregations and districts supplied is 198 greater. Not far from 60,300 pupils are receiving religious instruction in the Sabbath schools, under the supervision of the missionaries. The past year has not been marked by any extensive and general revivals in any part of our country, as have some former years, yet 266 of these missionaries report 2,769 hopeful conversions in connexion with their labours. The number added to all the churches under the care of the missionaries within the year, as nearly as can be ascertained, is 7,693—of which 4,812 were added on profession of faith, and the remainder by letter, from other churches. In noticing "the circumstances which combine to render the moral renovation of our country a work of increasing difficulty," the report speaks of slavery as one of them, and on this wise:—"Another obstacle—and one of increasing magnitude—which may well fill the heart of philanthropy with deep concern, is the existence of that horrible anomaly in American institutions, slavery—covering so large a portion of our territory, and enthralling more than two and a half millions of souls, made in the image of God, in a bondage worse than Egyptian, that defeats the most direct and effectual efforts for their salvation." Strange as it may seem to you, such an allusion as this to slavery, in a report of one of our large missionary boards, is something "new under the sun." I venture to say that the report of this society will be a *rara avis*, in this respect, among the reports of all our other kindred societies—the anti-slavery societies alone excepted—and anniversary speeches are all in the same style. Rebuke us for such—shall I call it piety?—as much as you please. Only do it in Christian style, and not forgetting that you have some short-comings too; and the more of it, the better.

Of other anniversaries I will write you (D.V.) by the next steamer. I will only add now a few words respecting the action, on the subject of slavery, of two of our largest ecclesiastical bodies—the "Baptist Triennial Convention," and the "Methodist General Conference." The convention met in Philadelphia the last week in April. It was the largest meeting our baptist brethren have ever had. The convention meets once in three years, and is constituted of ministers and delegates from baptist churches in all parts of the country—north, south, east, and west—who are associated together especially for foreign missionary purposes. The "Baptist Board of Foreign Missions" is appointed by, and reports to, the convention. It was feared, and indeed expected beforehand, that at the late meeting the slavery question would divide the body. It did not do it; and I have now to tell you how the subject was compromised—for compromised I insist it was. It was agreed on all sides, that the subject must be disposed of in some way or other than *sub silentio*. Accordingly, when the convention had been fairly organised, and

the usual committees appointed, the Rev. Mr Johnson, of South Carolina, slaveholder, offered a resolution, declaring in substance, that the "convention is a corporation, with limited powers, for certain specified and definite purposes, and the delegates only assemble to transact the business prescribed by its charter, and no other, and that their co-operation in this body implies no concert or sympathy upon any question not embraced in its charter." A long debate ensued, which was terminated by the offering of the following substitute:—

"Whereas, there exists, in various sections of the country, an impression that our present organisation involves the fellowship of the domestic institution of slavery, or of certain associations which are designed to oppose this institution,

"Resolved, That in co-operating together as members of this convention, in the work of foreign missions, we disclaim all sanction, either express or implied, whether of slavery or of anti-slavery; but as individuals, we are free both to express and promote our views on this or other subjects, in a Christian manner and spirit."

This was adopted, strange to say, with but two dissenting voices. So that now, abolitionists and slaveholders can all come together as one, sit at the Lord's table together, send out slaveholders or non-slaveholders, as it may happen, for missionaries, and do sundry other such like deeds, and then, by the magic of a word, resolve the whole into "no sanction, express or implied, of slavery or of anti-slavery!"

On the same week with the convention, "the American Baptist Home Missionary Society" held its meeting, at which the folly and impracticability of attempting to conduct missions, at home or abroad, after the tenor of the above resolution, had a fine illustration. It is understood that some of the home missionaries now in the field are slaveholders. Whether it be so or not, it is obvious that, in conducting missions in the slave as well as the free states, the question must arise of the propriety of employing such. Accordingly, at an early period of the meeting, for the sake of testing the question, the Rev. Mr Adlam, of Maine, an abolitionist, offered a resolution, to the effect, "that a minister being a slaveholder should present no barrier to his being employed as a missionary of this society." A long and warm discussion ensued, which was continued through parts of three subsequent days, the abolitionists strenuously resisting the appointment of any slaveholder, and the slaveholders and their allies being as strenuous for it. The discussion ended in the adoption of the following resolution, and the appointment of the committee proposed by it:—

Resolved, That a committee of three from the north, three from the south, and three from the west, with the president of the society as chairman, be appointed, to take into consideration the subject of an amicable dissolution of this society, or to report such alterations in the constitution as will admit of the co-operation of brethren who cherish conflicting views on the subject of slavery."

Our friend Colver and some other staunch abolitionists are on the committee. How they will finally adjust the matter I can hardly venture to predict. In consistency and truth, there is clearly no ground to stand, short of the non-appointment of slaveholders, or dissolution. But for the compromise in the convention I should have no fear. As it is, I wait to see.

The "Methodist Episcopal General Conference" is now in session in New York. This body meets once in four years, and passes in review all the affairs of that church. It is the court of last and highest appeal, and speaks for the whole denomination in all the states. Four years since, at Baltimore, this body decided that the testimony of coloured persons, bond or free, should not be received in cases of discipline in the church against a white man, in all those states where the civil law excluded such testimony. That rule still remains unrescinded. On another point, however, raised at its present meeting, the conference has acted in a manly and Christian spirit, and come to a general result. The case was this. Within a year or two a Rev. Mr Harding, of the Baltimore conference, married a wife having slaves. The conference commenced discipline, insisting that he manumit his slaves. He contended that the laws of Maryland gave him no control over his wife's property; and, were it otherwise, that the laws forbid emancipation within the state, and that therefore he could not manumit them. The conference maintained in reply, that, knowing all this beforehand, he yet entered voluntarily into his present relations; and, if the slaves were not made free, he must abide the consequences. He and his wife persisted in their slaveholding, and the conference suspended him from the ministry. He took an appeal, on the above grounds and on some technical informality, to the General conference. The case had a full hearing, occupying most of the sessions for some four days. The question was finally taken on a motion "that the decision of the Baltimore Conference be, and is hereby, reversed;" upon which there were one hundred and seventeen nays and fifty-six yeas. The Chair pronounced the decision of the Baltimore Conference affirmed by this vote. Mr Harding's counsel contended that the vote only went against reversing the Baltimore decision, and that a motion to return the case for farther consideration to that conference would be in order. The Bishop (Morris) dissented; an appeal was taken from the chair to the conference, and the Bishop was sustained by an overwhelming majority. It is, therefore, now *law* in all the American methodist episcopal church, that no slaveholder can sustain the office of a minister of the gospel in good and regular standing. So far as there are such ministers, and such there are in some of the more southern conferences, they remain so in violation of the discipline of their church, as now interpreted and affirmed by their highest ecclesiastical judicatory. Thanks to our methodist brethren for this: may they speedily perfect the work of expurgation so auspiciously begun.

I will only add, in this connexion, that some weeks since the Cincinnati presbytery, of which our friend Blanchard is a member, commenced a disciplinary process against one of their body for the heresy of teaching that the Bible authorises and sanctions slaveholding. I will endeavour to advise you of the result. P.

BAPTIST COLLEGE, BRISTOL.—On Wednesday, June 26th, the annual meeting of the friends and subscribers to the Bristol Baptist College was held in Bristol. In the morning, in Broadmead chapel, essays were read by two of the senior students, Mr Gifford and Mr Thomas. The subject of the essay by the former was the doctrine of a Particular Providence; the latter essay was on Schism. These were heard with much satisfaction, and were followed by an impressive and powerful address by Mr W. Jones, of Frome. The public business of the institution was transacted in the vestry of the chapel. The statement made at this meeting, of the spirit and conduct of the students, and likewise the reports from the examiners, were very gratifying; and it was satisfactory to hear, that a balance of £89 against the society at the close of the last year had been swept off. This desirable result, however, would not have been effected without the aid of some donations, together with two legacies of £100 and £10. The assembly at the dinner in the lecture room was as large and harmonious as on former occasions. In the evening, at seven o'clock, at Counterslip chapel, a sermon was preached by Mr Edmund Hull, of Watford, from Col. i. 28, 29, in which the great end of the Christian ministry, the means of accomplishing it, and the power which gives efficacy to the means, were stated with much earnestness and simplicity.

HIGHBURY COLLEGE.—The annual meeting of this institution was held at the college, on Wednesday, June 26.—Dr Leifchild in the chair. The examinations in the various departments of study had been conducted previously in writing; and the papers of the students had been reviewed by Messrs J. J. Freeman, J. Stoughton, Dr Matheson, Dr Alliot, and Mr R. Redpath, M.A. The reports of these examiners were presented, which were highly gratifying, stating that the progress of the students was very satisfactory. After the reading of the report of the committee and the treasurer's accounts, and the transaction of the usual business, essays were read by some of the students. At the conclusion, the chairman delivered to them a most affectionate and judicious address. Several ministers were present, who spoke to the meeting, and offered up prayer at the commencement and close of the engagements.

SPRING HILL COLLEGE ANNIVERSARY.—The annual meeting of the trustees and subscribers of Spring Hill college, was held at Ebenezer chapel, Birmingham, on Tuesday, the 25th of June. In the absence of Mr T. East, whose long-continued indisposition during the past year had induced him to resign the treasurership, the chair was taken by John Barker, Esq., of Wolverhampton. The reports of the board of education, examiners, and committee of management, were then read, after which W. Beaumont, Esq., the new treasurer, read an abstract of his accounts for the year, which, with the various reports, was approved, and ordered to be printed and circulated. From the report, it appeared that the sum in hand on the new building account was £1,462, of which, notwithstanding that the late treasurer's illness had rendered any special effort to increase it impossible, £363 14s. 6d. had been received during the present year. Besides this, upwards of £2,000 had been paid for the land; and £4,618 18s. was also promised on the same account. On the year's account for current expenses, it appeared that there was a trifling balance in favour of the institution; this, however, has effected but a small reduction of the deficiency on the current account, which is still nearly £900. In the evening of the same day a meeting was held for the purpose of publicly dismissing the students whose term of academical study expired with the late session. These students were six in number, and were addressed by Mr J. A. James in a very affectionate, judicious, and impressive manner.

ROTHERHAM COLLEGE.—On Monday and Tuesday, July 1st and 2nd, the annual examination of the students in this institution took place, and on Wednesday, the public meeting of the subscribers and supporters. Mr T. Scales, of Leeds, presided at the examination, in rhetoric, church history, biblical interpretations, and theology. The students were required to give written answers to questions not previously communicated, extending over the studies of the entire session, and acquitted themselves in a highly satisfactory manner. The meeting of the subscribers and friends was more numerous attended than on any recent occasion, and much animation was displayed throughout the proceedings. Mr Hamer, the senior student, delivered an essay "On the Work of the Holy Spirit in Regeneration," which was well received; and the Rev. Mr Scales afterwards addressed the students, giving them many valuable and important counsels. The treasurer's report of the finances was more favourable than formerly, owing to a considerable increase of subscriptions in London, and in the West Riding, during the past year. More than one hundred and sixty ministers have been educated in this college. The Rev. J. Hammond, of Handsworth, near Birmingham, one of the oldest of these *alumni*, had the satisfaction of presenting £115, part of a fund entrusted to the discretionary disposal of the Rev. B. Brook, who was Mr Hammond's fellow-student, as the foundation of a jubilee fund; and a committee was appointed to carry out the wishes of the meeting in this respect.—*Sheffield Independent*.

OPENING OF THE INDEPENDENT CHAPEL, MARKET HARBOUR.—This chapel, which has been built under very discouraging circumstances—nearly £1600 which had been raised by the congregation towards its erection having been in the Harboro' bank at the time of its failure—was opened for public worship on Thursday, July 11, when Drs Reed and Leifchild delivered very appropriate and impressive discourses to respectable and crowded audiences. After the morning service, about 400 ladies and gentlemen sat down to a cold collation, which had been tastefully set out in the British school rooms; and when justice had been done to the abundant provisions, more serious business commenced, for on the proposal of Dr Reed, which was earnestly seconded by Dr Leifchild, Mr Alexander, of Norwich, and other speakers, that an attempt should at once be made to pay off the remaining part of the debt, which amounted to £1100; four gentlemen, members of the congregation, declared their willingness, if this could be done, to repeat their donation of £100 each; others followed their example according to their ability; whilst friends from Nottingham and Leicester, and other places, pledged themselves to render liberal assistance; and the result was, that before the close of the day's engagements, the whole amount was promised. The public collections of the day, together with those after two admirable sermons by Mr J. Alexander on the following Sunday, reached the handsome sum of £189. The new chapel, which may now be considered as paid for, is a spacious and handsome building, and has been erected under the superintendence of Mr W. Flint, of Leicester, to whose taste and skill it is universally allowed to do much credit. It is most earnestly hoped, that the church and congregation, who have so nobly exerted themselves on this occasion, will long enjoy peace and in every sense prosperity; and learn by experience, that He who loveth a cheerful giver, has accepted of their offerings.

RECOGNITION SERVICES AT RICHMOND.—Two very interesting services were held on the occasion of the recognition of Mr Evan Davies, late of Walthamstow, and formerly missionary at Penang, on the 18th of June, at the independent chapel, Richmond, Surrey. Dr T. W. Jenkyn delivered the introductory address, and asked the usual questions. Mr J. Arundel, home secretary of the London Missionary society, offered the designation prayer. Dr H. F. Burder addressed the minister. Messrs Adeney, Richards, Edwards, Newberry, Roberts, and Miller engaged in the devotional parts of the morning service. In the evening, Mr George Rose, of Bermondsey, preached to the church and congregation. Mr C. Hardy, classical tutor in the Wesleyan college of Richmond, and Messrs Kluht, Yonge, and Crisp, engaged in the other parts of the services of the day. Many of the friends of Mr Davies, from Walthamstow and other places, were present on the occasion; the attendance in general was good, and all persons present appeared delighted with the order and engagements of the day.

BASINGSTOKE.—Mr A. Johnson, of Hurstbourne, Hants, has accepted the invitation of the congregational church, Basingstoke, to be co-pastor with Mr J. Willis; and he commenced his labours in his new and interesting field of labour on the second sabbath of this month.

BOTESDALE, SUFFOLK.—On the afternoon of Friday, June 28, the foundation stone of a new baptist chapel was laid in this town, by Mr J. P. Lewis, of Diss, secretary of the local home missionary society, and an address delivered on the occasion, by Mr C. Elven, of Bury St Edmunds.

CHARD.—THE VOLUNTARY PRINCIPLE.—At the anniversary of the opening of the baptist chapel, on Friday evening, subscriptions to the amount of £303 were made towards liquidating the building debt upon the chapel. Mr Winter, of Bristol, preached in the evening.

SHREWSBURY.—On Tuesday, June 25, the foundation stone of a second independent chapel was laid in this town, by J. Lewin, Esq. The attendance at this very interesting service was numerous and respectable, and a devout feeling seemed to pervade the assembly.

HAMBLEDON, BUCKS.—The recognition of Mr J. Spencer, late of Cawston, as the pastor of the church and congregation assembling in this village, was held on Tuesday, June 25th. There was a numerous attendance of the neighbouring ministers and their congregations. A public tea meeting was held between the services; when suitable addresses were delivered by Messrs J. Spencer, J. Bull, W. Spencer, and J. Rowland.

MARRIAGES.

July 1, at the Baptist chapel, Leominster, Mr DAVID DAVIES, baptist minister, Haverfordwest, to Mrs TOVEY, widow of the late Mr Tovey, Clithero, Lancashire.

July 8, at the Baptist chapel, Horsforth, W. COLCROFT, of Stanningley, to MARY, eldest surviving daughter of the late JONATHAN STABLES, Esq., of the former place.

July 9, by license, at Bethesda chapel, East Grinstead, Sussex, by Mr E. Jones, of Lewes, Mr J. E. JUDSON, minister of the independent church, Lindfield, to EMILY, fourth daughter of JOHN EDGER, Esq., of Pickstone park, East Grinstead.

July 9, at Meeting-house alley chapel, Portsea, by Mr Charles Broom, Mr Alderman ELLIOTT, one of the deacons to the above church, to SARAH, relict of the late Mr GEORGE MILLER, R.N.

July 9, at West Orchard chapel, Coventry, Mr JAMES SCRIVENNER, to Miss ANN COLEY, both of that city.

July 10, at Abney chapel, Stoke Newington, Mr J. F. GRAY, of Brecon, to Miss J. F. JEFFERSON, second daughter of J. Jefferson, minister of Abney chapel.

July 10, at the Registrar's office, Bakewell, Mr Wm THORP, of Shrewsbury, to HARRIET, daughter of the late Richard GREGORY, Esq., of Meadow-place, near the former place.

July 10, at the Baptist chapel, Waltham Abbey, Essex, Mr JOSEPH FREEMAN, of Stratford, Essex, to Miss ELLEN HERSEY, of Purford, Surrey.

July 10, Lord CHARLES WELLESLEY, second son of the Duke of Wellington, to Miss PIERREPONT, daughter of the Right Hon. Henry Manservant Pierrepont.

July 11, at the independent chapel, Linton, Cambs., Mr J. DAVIES, minister of the former place, to MARY KIDMAN, Pos-

ter, daughter of the late Wm Foster, Esq., of Hanston Mills. July 13, at the independent chapel, Reigate, by Mr Thomas Rees, Mr MARK WICKS, to ELLEN APPEL.

July 16, at St Martin's-square chapel, Chichester, Mr JAMES CHARLES CANN, minister, of Bognor, to FANNY, only daughter of J. W. BUCKELL, Esq., of Chichester.

DEATHS.

July 7, at Addison road, Kensington, after a long and painful illness, ELIZA, the affectionate and beloved wife of Mr Edmund DUDDEN.

July 10, at the residence of her brother-in-law, Henry Darvill, Esq., Windsor, Miss JEMIMA NASH, of Langley, Bucks, aged 24.

July 12, MARY, wife of Mr W. C. LOVELESS, minister of the gospel, of Herne Bay, aged 68.

July 12, in her 80th year, after a painful illness of four years, Mrs GILES, wife of Mr William Giles, minister of the gospel, of Ashton-under-Lyne. Her end was peace.

July 12, at the age of 57, of congestion of the brain, Mr TRAVERS, head of the eminent firm of Joseph Travers and Son, St Swithin's lane. It was intended to have held a meeting at the Bay Tree tavern, St Swithin's lane, on Friday evening, on the subject of free trade; and also for the purpose of considering the best means of obtaining an efficient registration of liberal voters, in the event of an election during the next year. Mr Travers was to have presided; but, in consequence of this melancholy event, the meeting was postponed until a future day.

On Thursday, Mr Van Amburgh who is now at Windsor with his collection of animals, had the honour of exhibiting, at the court in Windsor Castle, two beautiful cubs, a lion and a lioness, only a fortnight old. Her Majesty appeared to be much pleased with the gambols and playfulness of the young lion and lioness, several of the royal suite taking them in their arms.

The *Manchester Guardian* states that a copy of the new Brazilian tariff had reached Manchester, though not officially promulgated; and that it realises the most unfavourable anticipations as to its restrictive character. After the expiry of our treaty, in November next, the rates of duty on the principal articles of export from this country will, it is said, be raised from twenty-one per cent. *ad valorem* to duties varying from thirty to sixty per cent. *ad valorem*.

POST OFFICE ESPIONAGE IN THE COUNTRY.—A correspondent of the *Times* relates the following incident:—

"A short time since I was informed of the death of a relative, and my presence was desired as quickly as possible. I wrote by the same day's post to have my friends meet me at the terminus of a railway more than twelve miles distant. On my arrival I was surprised to find that no one was there to meet me, and there being no conveyance at the late hour of my arrival, I was obliged to travel the whole distance on foot. On reaching home I found my letter had not arrived. The following day I was astonished to find that it had not only been detained a day, but had been re-sealed with different wax and another impression, and no account given for the cause of its delay by superscription or otherwise. This is only one out of several cases I have known to occur."

On Saturday a government agent made two purchases of pictures for the National Gallery, at a sale by Messrs Christie and Manson. One of these is "Lot and his daughter leaving Sodom," by Guido, for which 1600 guineas was paid; and the other, "The judgment of Paris," by Rubens, 400 guineas.

Trade and Commerce.

LONDON GAZETTE.

Friday, July 12.

BANKRUPTS.

BIGGS, THOMAS, Bath, woollen draper, July 26, Sept. 5: solicitors, Messrs Whittington and Castles, Bristol.

BOND, WILLIAM, Liverpool, publican, July 23, August 27: solicitors, Mr Nethercole, Essex street, Strand, London, and Mr Owen, Liverpool.

FOXST, JAMES ALEXANDER, Liverpool, glass merchant, July 23, August 27: solicitors, Messrs Johnson and Co., Temple, London; Mr J. C. Grocott, and Mr Dodge, Liverpool.

FYTER, GEORGE, late of Portsea, Hampshire, but now of 30, Alfred street, City road, grocer, July 20, August 16: solicitors, Messrs Hill and Matthews, St Mary Axe.

GRIFFITHS, THOMAS, Stoke-upon-Trent, Staffordshire, tailor, July 23, August 20: solicitors, Mr Middleton, Stone, and Mr T. R. T. Hodgson, Birmingham.

MARCOULE, FRANCOIS EMANUEL CARNEL DE LA, 38, Fenchurch street, City, merchant, July 19, August 21: solicitor, Mr James, Basinghall street.

SOUTHEY, SIMON, South street, Finsbury market, and 112, Kingsland road, cabinet manufacturer, July 29, August 20: solicitor, Mr J. Watson, 27, Worship street, Finsbury.

THORN, THOMAS GAUGE, Southampton, builder, July 23, August 26: solicitors, Mr G. Fitch, Gray's inn, and Mr E. R. Stace, Southampton.

WEIR, WILLIAM, Carlisle, iron merchant, July 23, August 27: solicitors, Messrs Mounsey and Gray, Staple inn, London; Mr Bendle, Carlisle; and Mr Hoyle, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

WHITTAKER, HENRY, Macclesfield, silk throwster, July 27, August 16: solicitors, Messrs Low and Co., Southampton buildings, London; Messrs Brocklehurst and Bagshaw, Macclesfield; and Messrs Slater and Ellis, Manchester.

WOOD, WILLIAM ROBERT, Brighton, Sussex, dentist, July 23, August 21: solicitor, Mr C. Lamb, Bucklersbury.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

ALLADICE and LAUGHTON, Leith and Edinburgh, booksellers, July 16, August 6.

MACKENZIE, RODERICK, Edinburgh, writer, July 17, August 7.

SCOTT, Rev. ALEXANDER, lately minister at Colingburgh, Fife, July 19, August 9.

DIVIDENDS.

J. Abbott, Blackburn, Lancashire, cotton manufacturer: final div. of 1s. 11d. in the pound, any Tuesday—J. and G. H. Fisher, Manchester, warehousemen: second div. of 1s. in the pound, any Tuesday—C. Teesdale and R. Toulson, Westminster bridge road, warehousemen, first div. of 5s. 6d. in the pound: and under the separate estate of R. Toulson, first div. of 30s. in the pound; any Saturday—J. Martin, King street, Cheapside, City, woollen warehouseman: final div. of 10d. in the pound, any Saturday—T. Tindall, Hastings, Sussex, linen draper: final div. of 1s. 10d. in the pound, any Saturday—W. Marsham, Angel court, Throgmorton street, City, broker: final div. of 3d. in the pound, any Saturday—F. J. Pegler, Reading, Berkshire, woollen draper: first div. of 10s. in the pound, any Wednesday—R. Evershed, Pulborough, Sussex, timber merchant: first div. of 5s. in the pound—L. H. R. Mott, Pall Mall, and Dean street, Soho, pianoforte maker: first and second divs of 4s., and third div. of 8d. in the pound—S. Brown, Oxford street, cheesemonger: first div. of 5d. in the pound—T. Millar, Liverpool, hosier: first div. of 2s. 6d. in the pound, any Wednesday.

Tuesday, July 16.

The following building is certified as a place duly registered for solemnizing marriages, pursuant to the act of 6 and 7 William IV, cap. 85.—

Baptist chapel, Chipping, Gloucestershire.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.

SWIFT, EDWARD, Chingford mills, Essex, miller.

BANKRUPTS.

BANISTER, ROBERT, Portsea, Hampshire, draper, July 22, August 24: solicitors, Messrs Reed and Shaw, Friday street, Cheapside.

GORDON, THOMAS LORAM, Exeter, cabinet maker, July 30, August 20: solicitors, Mr Laidman, Exeter; Messrs Clowes and Wedlake, King's bench walk, Temple, London.

GREEN, TOM WALTER, Leeds, bookseller, July 29, August 16: solicitors, Messrs Dymley and Co., Bedford row, London; Messrs Shepherd and Simpson, Beverley; Mr Henry Boulton Harle, Leeds.

HAMMOND, SAMUEL, jun., Upminster, Essex, market gardener, July 23, August 20: solicitor, Mr Davidson, Broad street, Cheapside.

KASNER, BARNETT, 15 B, Old Cavendish street, Cavendish square, jeweller, July 29, August 27: solicitors, Messrs Rhodes and Lane, 63, Chancery lane.

LOKANE, JOHN LAMSTON, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, wine merchant, July 24, August 27: solicitors, Messrs Clayton and Cookson, 6, New square, Lincoln's inn, London; and Messrs Claytons and Dunn, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

PEARCE, THOMAS, 239, Bermondsey street, Southwark, tripe-man, July 29, August 27: solicitors, Messrs Hillery and Co., Fenchurch street.

SMITH, WILLIAM BRESTON, Sudbury, Suffolk, surgeon, July 26, August 30: solicitor, Mr T. Merston, Torrington square.

STEVENS, EDMUND, Agar's field, St Pancras road, contractor, July 26, August 28: solicitors, Messrs Collins and Rigley, 5, Crescent place, Bridge street, Blackfriars.

WILLIAMS, HENRY, Farringdon, Berkshire, grocer, July 25, August 24: solicitors, Messrs White and Co., Bedford-row; and Messrs Crowdy and Co., Farringdon.

WILLIAMS, WILLIAM HENRY, Martock, Somersetshire, linen-draper, July 25, August 20: solicitor, Mr C. H. Stedman, 18, Aldermanbury.

WILSON, JAMES GODFREY, 19, Standard-factory, Wenlock-basin, Wharf-road, City-road, engineer, July 25, August 28: solicitor, Mr T. Nias, 5, Cophall court, Throgmorton street.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATION.

FIMSTER, WILLIAM, Glasgow, mason, July 23, August 13.

DIVIDENDS.

William Gorton, jun., St Peter's chambers, Cornhill, merchant: first div. of 5s. 6d. in the pound, any Wednesday—Samuel Clough and William Thompson Clough, Eccleston, Lancashire, alkali manufacturers: second div. of 1d. and 15-16ths of a penny in the pound, payable July 25, or any Thursday—Charles Robson, Shotley bridge, Durham, miller: first div. of 5s. 3d. in the pound, payable any Saturday—Richard Hodgson, Sunderland, Durham, tea dealer: second div. of 5s. 6d. in the pound, payable any Saturday—John Barraclough, Bradford, Yorkshire, timber merchant: first div. of 5s. in the pound, payable any Thursday—James Taylor Bradley and William Bradley, Leeds, ironmongers: final div. of 2s. 8d. in the pound, July 22, or any day after—John Swallow, sen., John Swallow, jun., and George Swallow, Skircoat, Yorkshire, millers: final div. of 7d. in the pound, payable July 22, or any day after—Job Gibson, Kirtton, Lincolnshire: first and final div. of 2s. 9d. in the pound, payable July 22, or any day after—James Brassey, Leeds, victualler: second and final div. of 4s. 3d. in the pound, payable July 22, or any day after—Christopher Pope, Bristol, copper manufacturer: fifth div. of 1s. in the pound, payable any Wednesday—James Hallowell, Salford, Lancashire, dyer: first div. of 2s. 1d. in the pound, payable any Tuesday.

BRITISH FUNDS.

There is rather more business doing in the money market, and prices are on the advance. The operations of the government brokers have tended to give firmness to the market.

	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.
3 per cent. Consols	99	99	99	99	99	99
Ditto for Account	99	99	99	99	99	99
3 per cent. Reduced	99	99	99	100	100	100
34 per cent. Reduced	102	102	102	102	102	102
New 34 per cent.	101	101	101	102	102	102
Long Annuities	12	12	12	12	12	12
Bank Stock	200	200	200	199	199	199
India Stock	—	—	—	—	—	—
Exchequer Bills	73pm	74pm	74pm	75pm	75pm	76pm
India Bonds	94pm	94pm	—	95pm	94pm	—

FOREIGN FUNDS.

Austrian	—	Mexican	36
Belgian	104	Peruvian	36
Brazilian	83	Portuguese 5 per cents	45
Buenos Ayres	34	Ditto 3 per cents	—
Columbian	13	Russian	119
Danish	89	Spanish Active	23
Dutch 2 per cents	61	Ditto Passive	54
Ditto 5 per cents	101	Ditto Deferred	13

RAILWAY SHARES.

Birmingham and Derby	59	London and Brighton	48
Birmingham & Gloucester	97	London & Croydon Trunk	18
Blackwall	71	London and Greenwich	7
Bristol and Exeter	78	Ditto New	19
Cheltenham & Gt. Western	—	Manchester & Birm.	56
Eastern Counties	12	Manchester and Leeds	106
Edinburgh and Glasgow	63	Midland Counties	94
Great North of England	101	Ditto Quarter Shares	34
Great Western	126	North Midland	94
Ditto Half	79	Ditto New	46
Ditto Fifths	23	South Eastern and Dover	36
London and Birmingham	224	South Western	83
Ditto Quarter Shares	26	Ditto New	—

MARKETS.

MARK LANE, MONDAY, July 15.

There was a very good supply of English wheat, with few foreign cargoes; the sales were very slow, and rather lower prices have been accepted for the best runs of Essex and Kentish; a good deal remained unsold at the close of the market. In foreign, little business has been done, and most descriptions must be noted as lower. For bonded or floating cargoes there was no inquiry.

The late rains have been very favourable to all the growing crops of spring corn.

Barley must be noted as cheaper, with a dull trade.

Of oats there was an immense supply, amounting to nearly seventy thousand quarters, including some Irish cargoes fresh in and not reported. The trade has been extremely dull, and little progress made, though they have been generally offered at a decline of 1s. per quarter.

Beans are 1s. cheaper.

Peas are dull at last week's currency.

Wheat, Red New	41 to 50	Malt, Ordinary	45 to 56
Fine	50 to 54	Pale	60 to 64
White	42 to 50	Rye	30 to 32
Fine	52 to 59	Peas, Hog	30 to 34
Flour, per sack	38 to 48	Maple	33 to 34
Barley	27 to 30	Boilers	34 to 36
Malt	32 to 35	Beans, Ticks	30 to 32

Beans, Pigeon	34 to 38	Wheat	17s. 0d.
Harrow	28 to 32	Barley	6 0
Oats, Feed	19 to 21	Oats	9 0
Fine	22 to 23	Rye	8 6
Poland	21 to 23	Beans	6 6
Potato	21 to 23	Peas	8 6

WHEATLY AVERAGE FOR JULY 12.		AGGREGATE AVERAGE OF THE SIX WEEKS.	
Wheat	55s. 8d.	Wheat	55s. 8d.
Barley	34 5	Barley	32 6
Oats	22 11	Oats	22 5
Rye	35 0	Rye	34 1
Beans	38 2	Beans	36 11
Peas	36 6	Peas	34 11

SHEDES.

The demand for seeds was extremely languid. The few parcels of new rapeseed shown hung on hand, though of fine quality and offered at 24s. per last. New caraway seed was also obtainable on reasonable terms, say 45s. to 46s. per quarter. Canary seed was nearly unsaleable, and decidedly cheaper.

Linseed	per qr	Clover	per cwt.
English, sowing	54s. to 60s.	English, red	52s. to 58s.
Baltic, ditto	Ditto, white	83 .. 100
Ditto, crushing	40 .. 43	Flemish, pale	48 .. 50
Medit. & Odessa	41 .. 43	Ditto, fine	56 .. 110
Hempseed, small	35 .. 38	New Hamb., red	45 .. 50
Large	Ditto, fine	56 .. 110
Canary, new	53 .. 55	Old Hamb., red	38 .. 44
Extra	55 .. 60	Ditto, fine	54 .. 105
Caraway, old	French, red	46 .. 50
New	58 .. 62	Ditto, white
Byegras, English	Coriander	15 .. 20
Scotch	Old
Mustard	per bushel	Rapeseed	per last
Brown, new	17 .. 20	English, new	36s. to 37s.
White	10 .. 13	Linseed cakes
Trefoil	23 .. 30	English	9s. 15s. to 10s. 10s.
Old	12 .. 26	Foreign 54. 15s. to 7s.
Tares, new	4 .. 6	Rapeseed cakes	4s. 15s. to 5s. 0s.

PROVISIONS, LONDON, July 15.

In better there has been a very fair business doing during the week. Dutch having advanced from 81s. to 82s., caused more inquiry for Irish, and both on board and landed sales to some extent were effected. The market is very firm, at the following quotations:—Carrots, 72s. to 74s. on board, 73s. to 75s. landed; Waterfords, 70s. to 73s. on board, 71s. to 74s. landed; Corks, 70s. to 71s. on board, 73s. to 74s. landed; Limericks, 70s. to 71s. on board, 73s. landed. The improvement in the bacon market has been well maintained since our last. Heavy, which has for some time been neglected, has advanced full 1s. per cwt. Holders very firm, and looking for higher prices. The deliveries from the wharves are unusually large, and stock is now reduced 5,000 hams under last year. Hams in good demand, at higher prices. Lard remains in an inactive state, although there has been more inquiry for it.

HOPS, BOROUGH, Monday, July 15.

The state of the hop plantations differs so much that it is difficult to give an opinion with any correctness. Many parts of East Kent and the Weald, with a great portion of Sussex, are said to be seriously blighted. On the other hand, Mid Kent and the neighbourhood of Canterbury are good, as is also Farnham. The Worcester duty is called 16,000, and the duty for the Kingdom 145,000, to 150,000. The amount of business during the last week has been limited, but there is more disposition evinced to-day to make purchases. Sussex pockets 120s. to 125s., and Wealds 120s. to 130s. per cwt.

BUTCHER'S MEAT, SMITHFIELD, Monday, July 15.

The dead markets being tolerably well cleared of their last week's supplies, and the attendance of buyers somewhat numerous, the best trade, though far from brisk, ruled steady; and in some instances the quotations were 2d. per 5lbs higher than were those obtained on this day last night, and a good clearance was made. During the past week the imports of foreign hams into the different parts of the United Kingdom have not exceeded thirty-five head from Germany and Holland. The numbers of sheep were rather extensive and of good quality; yet the mutton trade was steady, at prices quite equal to those obtained on this day last night. Notwithstanding the supply of lambs was again extensive, the sale for that description of stock was firm, but no improvement was noticed in the quotations. Calves were in moderate supply, and in active demand, at barely late rates. The pork trade was very dull, at our quotations.

Beef	2s. 4d. to 3s. 10d.	Veal	2s. 4d. to 4s. 4d.
Mutton	2s. 8d. to 4s. 0	Pork	3s. 0d. to 4s. 0
Lamb	4s. 0d. to 5s. 0		

HEAD OF CATTLE AT SMITHFIELD.

	Beasts.	Sheep.	Calves.	Pigs.
Friday	470	10,010	451	320
Monday	2,604	31,280	154	360

NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL MARKETS, Monday, July 15.

Per 5lbs. by the carcase.	Per 5lbs. by the carcase.	Per 5lbs. by the carcase.	Per 5lbs. by the carcase.
Inferior Beef 3s. 0d. to 3s. 2d.	Inf. Mutton 2s. 4d. to 2s. 6d.	Middling do 3s. 4d. to 3s. 6d.	Mid. ditto 2s. 8d. to 3s. 2d.
Prime large 3s. 8d. to 4s. 0	Prime ditto 3s. 4d. to 3s. 8d.	Prime small 3s. 0d. to 3s. 4d.	Veal 3s. 2d. to 4s. 2d.
Large Pork 2s. 4d. to 3s. 6d.	Small Pork 3s. 8d. to 4s. 0	Lamb, 4s. 0d. to 5s. 0d.	

COTTON.

Cotton is in fair demand, chiefly from the trade, and, though the market is quiet, last week's prices of American are steadily maintained. Egyptian continues in demand, but is freely offered. In Brazil a limited business has been done at former rates. Surat is in fair demand, and fully supports last week's quotations, the market being barely supplied. The sales of the week amount to 39,030 bales, including 1,300 American and 396 Persian on speculation, and 340 American with 100 Surat for export.

WOOL.

There is more activity and firmness in this branch of trade. Prices are higher than at the lowest point of the depression, and have an upward tendency; but are nevertheless below the proportion of the prices now giving for new wools in the country.

HAY, SMITHFIELD, July 15.—At per load of 36 trusses.	HAY, SMITHFIELD, July 15.—At per load of 36 trusses.
Coarse Meadow .. 75s. to 80s.	New Clover Hay .. 105s. to 126s.
New ditto	Old ditto
Useful Old ditto .. 84 .. 88	Oat Straw .. 39 .. 34
Fine Upland ditto 90 .. 95	Wheat Straw .. 34 .. 36

COAL EXCHANGE, July 15.

Stewart's, 24s. 0d.; Hutton's, 24s. 0d.; Braddell's Hutton's, 24s. 6d. Ships arrived this week, 124.

GROCERIES.—TUESDAY, JULY 16.

SUGAR.—140 hhds Barbadoes sold in auction, at 57s. to 64s. per cwt; 450 hhds St Lucia, sold in auction, went off with spirit, at 55s. to 63s. per cwt; the total purchases amount to nearly 1,400 hhds and tierces. In refined goods there was more business doing; standard lump selling at 76s. to 78s. 6d. and brown grocery 74s. 6d. to 75s. per cwt. COCOA.—120 barrels and 120 bags Trinidad sold in auction at lower rates. Middling to good red sold at 39s. 6d. to 43s. and good grey 39s. to 40s. 6d. per cwt. COFFEE.—1,700 bags Ceylon, offered in auction, sold at former rates; good to fine ordinary 50s. to 53s.; good middling colour 48s. to 50s. per cwt. A small parcel of Jamaica offered in auction were withdrawn. TEA.—4,000 packages Pouchong are declared for sale for the 19th instant. The market is very heavy. Common sound Congous are selling at 10s. 6d. to 10s. 10d. per lb. cash. Ordinary Twankay is 2s. 4d. to 2s. 5d. per lb. cash.

Advertisements.

GRAVESEND. FIRST ANNIVERSARY of the NEW BAPTIST CHAPEL, on WEDNESDAY next, JULY 24th. The Rev. W. B. BOWES to preach in the Morning, and Dr STRANK in the Evening. A Public Meeting will be held in the Afternoon, in the Chapel, at which the Rev. JOHN ALDIS, and other Ministers, are expected to take part. The Chair to be taken at Three o'clock. Dinner 2s., Tea 9d., Supper 1s., will be provided at the Literary Institution. Steam-boats from London and Blackwall at Nine and half-past, in time for the Morning service; and the Evening service will close in time to allow of Friends returning by the Eight o'clock boat from Gravesend. The attendance of the friends of the cause is earnestly solicited.

CRESCENT HOUSE, LEICESTER.

THE MISSES MIALI beg to inform their Friends that the STUDIES of their School will be RESUMED on MONDAY, the 29th Inst.

A YOUNG LADY who has been engaged in Teaching during the last two years, is desirous of obtaining a SITUATION in a Family, in which the age of her Pupils shall not exceed twelve years. In addition to the usual branches of Education, she gives instruction in FRENCH, MUSIC, and DRAWING, which she studied under the best masters. Reference is permitted to the EDITOR of the *Nonconformist*. Address post-paid to A. B., at the MISSES PORTER and MIALI, No. 1, Vassall place, North Brixton.

BIRMINGHAM ELECTION.

TO THE ELECTORS AND NON-ELECTORS OF THE BOROUGH OF BIRMINGHAM.

MY FELLOW-TOWNSMEN,
In compliance with your request at the great Public Meeting held at the Town hall on the 8th instant, confirmed by the decision of an overwhelming majority at the nomination yesterday, I have given those electors who were disposed to do so, an opportunity of recording their votes in favour of the principles I advocate, and redeemed my pledge of not withdrawing my name until the legal time expired for keeping the poll open.

I see no cause to regret the course I adopted, though the number of votes recorded is much less than many of my sanguine friends anticipated.

I have the satisfaction of believing that nothing has occurred during the contest on the part of my supporters needlessly to wound the feelings of the friends of either of the other candidates, and I sincerely hope that this election may not in any instance disturb the cordiality of private friendship.

Amongst many other evils arising out of the present system of representation is this—that it greatly tends to destroy the sympathy of feeling between those who possess their political rights, and those who do not possess them. This has seldom been more strikingly exemplified than on the present occasion.

I have regretted much to hear that votes have been recorded for both the other candidates, not because the parties thus voting approved of their principles, but in order to prevent the return of the one to whom they were more strongly opposed. I have long been convinced that until Englishmen firmly adhere to principle, and not contend against parties or individuals, there is little hope of the removal of class legislation and its attendant evils; for there is, I believe, no more reason to expect that the people will obtain full justice from one of the great political sections who have so long been contending for power in this country than from the other. Sooner or later there will be a struggle between those who contend that every man should possess the same political rights as every other man, and those who would restrict those rights to the comparatively few. If the events of the past week have led any more candidly to consider the great principles upon which the demands of the former are based, I shall consider the part I have taken in them not to have been in vain.

With sincere acknowledgments for the kindness and personal interest shown by the electors, not only from the Non-electors and those Electors who unite in my views, but from the supporters of the other Candidates, and with the assurance that my friendly feeling towards them has not been altered in a single instance,

I am, respectfully,

JOSEPH STURGE.

Birmingham, 7th Month 13th, 1844.

DISSENTERS' CHAPELS BILL.

Now ready, price 2s.

A CORRECT REPORT OF THE DEBATE, on the Second Reading, in the House of Commons.

Also, price 6d.

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ISLINGTON GREEN CHAPEL.

THE RECOGNITION of the Rev. J. BROWN as PASTOR of the CHURCH will take place on THURSDAY, the 18th instant, when the Rev. CHARLES STOVEL, of Prescott street, will deliver the Introductory Discourse; and the Rev. T. S. CRISP, President of the Baptist College, Bristol, will give the Charge. The Rev. J. H. HINTON, M.A., of Devonshire square, will preach to the people in the Evening.

The Morning Service to commence at Eleven o'clock, and the Evening at Half-past Six.

BAPTIST CHAPEL, WELSHPOOL, MONTGOMERYSHIRE.

TO THE CHRISTIAN PUBLIC.

Dear Brethren and Sisters—We can but express our deep and unfeigned grief in being obliged to appeal once more to your sympathy and compassion; and nothing but solicitude for a cause, in serving which we are willing to sacrifice every private feeling of delicacy, could prevail with us to attempt again what at the first we felt great repugnance in doing. But we do hope that a brief re-statement of our difficulties, and the efforts we have made for their removal, will succeed with the benevolent feelings of those friends of Jesus who have it in their power to relieve us. We are £360 in debt (in a high-church town), with a small and poor church, but a large congregation of poor people, a good chapel, and good general prospects of usefulness, but being few and needy, and having to bear this heavy burden, we cannot by any possibility sustain pastoral agency suitable to the place; and the failure of that will be the extinction of every hope by which we now support minds long embarrassed and distressed, in conflict with great inequality of antagonist influence. Last year we had 1600 circulars printed, and addressed to our churches, containing a plain statement of our affairs. The case was recommended by eight ministers of the first standing, and was sent out to 1500 churches. Beside these, we have written and forwarded upward of 3000 letters, and appealed to the friends of Christ by advertisement; and the result of all has been responses to the amount of about £100, inclusive of expenses, which, on account of printing and postage, and the price of advertising, will be a considerable reduction. We have to be grateful to some kind, warm-hearted friends in Ireland and Scotland, who were not personally applied to, and also to ministers and churches, and private Christians, not belonging to our own body—especially Independents; and we can anticipate the sorrow which those who have been so liberal will feel, on learning how little we have sped. The request to the churches was only for one penny from every friend. Some have responded much beyond that, for which they have our warmest thanks; but others have either answered us with silence or censure—because we have troubled them; and we are compelled again to try the Christian public generally. We know that the object is a local one, but oh! it is one in which the precious souls of many immortals are concerned; and we cannot give up the lovers of Jesus and of men without repeating our humble intreaty for help. Is there not some generous, wealthy saint, who could afford us efficient aid, without ever after being able to know that he was the sufferer of any inconvenience on account of it—while the hearts of his afflicted brethren and sisters in Pool would bless him as long as they breathe? We still implore other friends, who can feel for those who are in trouble, to make one effort for us on the one penny system.

Signed, on behalf of the Church,

JOS. DREW, Pastor.

Donations and Subscriptions will be thankfully received and acknowledged by Rev. Mr. Kent, Shrewsbury (Treasurer), and Rev. Joseph Drew, Welshpool.

Welshpool, June 17th, 1844.

THE DISSENTERS' and GENERAL LIFE and FIRE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the TWELFTH HALF-YEARLY DIVIDEND, at the rate of 5 per Cent, declared on the 10th inst, is PAYABLE to the SHAREHOLDERS, without deduction of the Income tax, at the offices of the Company, No. 62, King William street, London bridge.

By order of the Board,

THOMAS PRICE, Secretary.

July 12, 1844.

HEINE BROTHERS, having remitted most frequently very large amounts of Money Dividends to England, Ireland, and Scotland, they beg to call the attention of those desirous to obtain similar favours to the approaching Distribution of Lubeck.

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PRESERVES AND CONFECTIONERY.

The superiority of BETTS'S PATENT BRANDY, for Preserves and Confectionery, is testified by the fact that it is preferred to any other spirit by the most extensive Wholesale Confectioners in the Metropolis; for fortifying Home-made Wines it is invaluable; as an Ordinary Beverage it is congenial to the most delicate constitutions; and, as a Medical Stimulant, it is peculiarly adapted to persons of bilious or dyspeptic habits. Quantities of not less than Two Gallons, supplied at the Distillery, 7, Smithfield bars, in Stone Jars, at 15s. per gallon, exclusive of the price of the jar; and in Glass Bottles, at 20s. per gallon, Bottles and Case included.

Consumers of Brandy are respectfully informed, that J. T. BETTS, Jun., & Co. will not be responsible for any Bottled Brandy that is not protected against fraudulent substitution, by the PATENT METALLIC CAPSULES, made of pure and solid metal (not tin-foil), embossed with the words, "Betts's Patent Brandy, 7, Smithfield bars," to which attention is especially directed.

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